

Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 5

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

March 17, 2010

SCHWEINFURT

WIN-WIN

Despite several obstacles, 902nd Company engineers complete a MOUT training facility

PAGE 16

ANSBACH

TRADING PLACES

15 U.S. and German students experience how the "other side" lives through an exchange program

PAGE 20

HOHENFELS

ON THE MARK

A rifle team member shoots for the stars at the National Air Rifle Championship

PAGE 23

GARMISCH

KEEP IT HOPPIN'

Visitors to the Wolnzach Hops Museum have a flavorful experience

PAGE 24



Welcome

The Bavarian News will release its "Welcome to Bavaria" special edition, March 24.

Although primarily designed for newcomers, the edition contains valuable information about programs, resources and upcoming events in the community you won't want to miss.

Copies will be available at ACS and through unit representatives.

Concerts

Don't miss the I. A.M. Strong tour, Friday, March 19, and Kevin Costner's band, Saturday, March 20. See page 12 for details.

What you're looking for

Opinion Editorial	2
News	3-8, 25
Retiree Corner	8
Medical	10
Travel	15
Movies	26
AAFES	27

Fuel ration policy changes

by Lt. Col. WAYNE MAROTTO

AAFES-Europe Public Affairs

MAINZ-KASTEL, Germany – U.S. Army Europe and the Army & Air Force Exchange Service-Europe will transition to a self-enforcement policy for fuel sales at AAFES gas stations throughout Germany beginning March 22.

The AAFES gas stations at the U.S. Army Garrison-Wiesbaden began a pilot program at the Hainerberg station, March 8, and at the Mainz-Kastel station, March 10.

"This new policy will result in the complete elimination of prefuel purchase checks – no more dreaded registration and

Esso fuel card checks prior to pumping," said Col. Chuck Salvo, commander, AAFES-Europe. "This will significantly speed up fuel purchases at AAFES facilities across Germany."

The transition to the self-enforcement policy will also eliminate letters from the provost marshal through the customer's chain of command for routine violations, such as exceeding monthly ration allowances. This allows customers to manage their ration balance and handle their own violations not the provost marshal.

"I think the new policy is great," said Danny Batara, a Mainz-

See FUEL, page 25

AER kicks off its 2010 campaign

by TRECIA A. WILSON

Assistant Editor

Yes, it's that time again. Time to belly up to the wishing well and throw some pennies into the Army Emergency Relief Fund. Here are just a few facts about the fund and who's eligible to receive it.

Army Emergency Relief is a command-driven Soldier emergency financial assistance fund. It is a private nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the secretary of war. AER's sole mission is to provide financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. AER assistance is provided in the form of interest-free loans and grants.

Each year AER reaches out to the people it serves to request help in keeping funded. This year, it began the campaign for funds March 1 and will continue through May 15.

Last year the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities raised almost \$50,000. They distributed in interest-free loans and grants, however, a total of \$435,199.92 to Soldiers and

See AER, page 25

Giggles galore



Kindergarten students from Grafenwoehr Elementary School screech with delight as a safety puppet show unfolds in front of them. The show was produced and performed by the police authority in Weiden, Germany, and taught children the importance of traffic safety.

Weiden Police puppets teach children safety

Story and photos by

MOLLY HAYDEN

Bavarian News



McGruff teaches children safety lessons through a captivating story. The German play was translated into English a few years ago for performances in Department of Defense schools.

learned in class and opened their eyes to a long-standing German tradition.

Officers of the police authority Weiden have entertained German students with this performance in the surrounding areas since 1999. The play, called "Der verzauberte Kaspar," was translated into English more than seven years ago and brought to Department of Defense schools. Translated as "The bewitched Kaspar," kindergarten and first-grade students at elementary schools in Grafenwoehr, Netzaberg and Vilseck have since enjoyed the unique learning experience.

Weiden Police Chief Klaus Sennert expressed his pride and gratitude for having the opportunity to work with DoD teachers in educating students on post.

"Together we can promote safety through continued education," said Sennert, through a translator. "We are proud of this show and proud to share it with the American children."

Behind the scenes of the puppet show, officers Werner Stopfer, Max Roessler and Hubert Wittmann dis-

guised their voices to bring the three characters to life and produced a captivating show of special effects and chilling sounds.

All was well nearing the end of the play as Kaspar crossed the street safely, learned to play with a bright red ball on the playground versus the street, and safely rode his bicycle on the sidewalk, away from the danger of traffic.

When the show ended, the host of the show, police officer Georg Huettner, asked for two boys and two girls to assist him in showcasing the ideas taught. Students wiggled in their seats holding hands high in hopes of being chosen. With the help of Huettner, four lucky children demonstrated how to correctly cross the street at a pedestrian crossing and received a keychain with the German police logo for volunteering.

The interactive play delighted the children and allowed them to share their knowledge with each other and their new wooden friend.

"I already knew this stuff," said 6-year-old Kiel Kelly. "So I helped Kaspar out."

Housing allowance survey to begin April 1

Online survey helps determine rates for off-post allowance

U.S. ARMY EUROPE

News Release

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utilities and Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) Expense Survey for Germany will be conducted April 1-30. The survey is intended for all military personnel who reside off-post in privately leased or rental housing. The survey will be available online starting April 1.

The Web address to access the survey will be located on the U.S. Army Europe home page under "Hot Topics." This Web address provides a direct link to the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) online survey.

Every year the Per Diem Committee conducts a survey to identify how much service members spent in the previous year for utilities (for example, electricity, heating fuel, water, trash removal and sewer fees). Data collected is used to determine utility allowances,

See SURVEY, page 25

European host nations support Army families

In America, the secretary of the Army created the Army Community Covenant in 2008 to build mutual relationships and strengthen bonds between Soldiers, families and American communities. The ACC has been a valuable tool in fostering and sustaining effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families on forefront U.S.A.

The ACC accomplishes two things by recognizing the selfless service and contributions of community volunteers, and also shows Soldiers the compassion and support of the American public.

Though the Army Community Covenant is not a formal program at European garrisons, Europe has long carried the torch as a pillar of support for the U.S. Army, ever since we helped liberate it from the bonds of tyranny during World War II and the bonds of oppression during the Cold War.

I fully understand that Europe's positive impact on the strength of the Army family overseas is a jewel in our



nation's crown.

Much the same as the ACC in the States, Soldiers and families who call Europe their home away from home enjoy fabulous friendship and selfless

builds added resilience in our families as they deal with numerous hardships.

The generosity of Europe's neighborhoods, towns, cities and counties is astounding. Just as in America, every day communities surrounding our European Army garrisons devise new ways, both small and large, to demonstrate their appreciation for Soldiers and families. Here are a few initiatives that give you an idea of the scope of this support:

Adults, children and organizations support family readiness groups in supporting efforts to support deployed Soldiers from the local area.

Reduced-fee or gratis incentives provided by cities to families and Soldiers to attend host nation community, cultural and tourism events that enhance cultural understanding.

Host nation visitation tours for Soldiers and families to German political centers to enhance understanding of host nation socio-political workings.

Host nation volunteers from the Kontakt program at Germany garrisons, who donate thousands of hours annually to support events at

garrisons that enhance the experience for Soldiers and families.

- School exchanges and partnerships that encourage cross-cultural awareness, understanding and appreciation, and develop bonds of friendship

- The reliance of Army communities on critical life and safety support provided by host nation law enforcement, medical and fire first responders that safeguard our communities and, when called upon, selflessly risk their lives for our Soldiers and families.

Garrison sports exchange programs and competitions that develop comradeship between sports organizations and enhance cultural understanding.

Access to host nation medical care facilities for Army families that ensures the health concerns and priorities of Soldiers and their families are effectively addressed in a timely manner.

These examples of support on part of European nations are great examples of how foreign citizens and organizations directly enrich the

lives of our Soldiers and families and strengthen our resiliency.

When you eventually return to the U.S., the Community Covenant will pick up where your gracious European hosts left off, and I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the program at www.army.mil/community, where you can see the best practices of Soldiers, family members, leaders and community organizations in the States. Perhaps you will even discover something you can adapt to your European community, or see an opportunity to let me know about something that has worked for you overseas that we can use here in the U.S.

Relationships are everything, and I encourage you to take every opportunity to thank the members of your host nation community for their sincere and active caring for Soldiers and their families in Europe. The Army is eternally grateful and thankful for their support.

*Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Commander, Installation Management Command*

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Garrison nabs IMCOM-E's 1st Superior Unit Award



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, Installation Management Command, awards Staff Sgt. Kenneth Banks, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, with an Army Superior Unit Award, March 10. Banks received the award on behalf of the entire garrison.

7 issues advance to next level - Europe Regional AFAP Conference

Our efforts to transform the Grafenwoehr military community into Europe's premier installation to live, work and train have been recognized. We are very proud to be the first U.S. Army garrison to receive the Army's Superior Unit Award.

Last week, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general, Installation Management Command, visited us and bestowed the honor. The Department of the Army recognized our installation for meritorious service in support of the Army's Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr, or EB-G, initiatives, and the restaging, deployment and reintegration of more than 11,000 Soldiers.

Also cited in the award is the tremendous support provided to tenant units, civilians and training support for our transient training units and their Soldiers.

Our EB-G initiatives transformed Grafenwoehr from a small and aging community to a main post that includes one of the largest PX/Commissary complexes, a new shoppette, physical fitness center and health clinic. The construction of new barracks and motorpools have also modernized



the Grafenwoehr quality of life by allowing thousands of Soldiers to train and then return home each day rather than requiring them to spend months away from a home on temporary duty. Next month, we will officially recognize the enormous accomplishments of EB-G with a ceremony involving all those involved with this tremendous effort.

Last week we also conducted our Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference. This conference belongs to everyone in the community because it is driven purely by your submissions. We are assessing the final issues and will announce those for submission in the very near future.

We thank all of our contributing community members for participating in the AFAP conference. It is important that we continue to communicate about your impression and needs here in our military community. We are dedicated to sustaining and improving your quality of life and well-being.

A very important challenge for our community remains the prevention of sexual assault. Recently, the Inspector General (IG) team evaluated our community as part of an overall U.S. Army Europe effort to eliminate this very serious issue. Gen. Ham

makes it very clear with a compelling mantra "Not In My Army," and his call to action is also ours—to take all necessary measures to eliminate sexual assault.

Education is key, and Command Sgt. Maj. Berrios mentions the I.A.M. Strong campaign in his column below with a concert that specifically highlights the topic of sexual assault.

Procedures are another area to aid in prevention and response. The USAREUR IG team found several areas that need attention such as the identification and training of our Unit Victim Advocates (UVAs); do you know who your UVAs are and are they fully trained to handle your unit's needs? The ability of after-hours unit leadership (SDOs and CQs) to rapidly contact their respective UVAs and our community's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC); are your unit rosters and procedures current? The physical security of our barracks and housing; are you confident in the security of your dwelling? These and other areas need continuous attention with everyone's involvement.

Recognizing performance and staying fully engaged in our community, making us Army Strong!

*Col. Chris Sorenson
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

CSM CORNER



I. A.M. Strong Tour entertains community

Intervene. Act. Motivate. These three words make up the beginning of the acronym I. A.M. Strong. They are the actions we, as Soldiers and members of this strong Army community, must all be prepared to take in order to stop sexual harassment, assaults and sexually offensive language, innuendo and gestures that create an environment friendly to abuse in the Army or elsewhere.

Sexual assault and harassment are unacceptable in any environment. We all know they exist, but sadly, we have allowed this behavior to continue despite the damage it does to the very core of our forces.

In addition, we are happy to announce the return of the play "Sex Signals," April 20, at the Rose Barracks Theater. The play draws attention to and seeks to educate unit leaders and personnel on sexual assault signals in



their environment.

It is the responsibility of each and every one of us – Soldier, family member, Department of Defense civilian or local national employee – to stop sexual assault from happening.

The Army has created an I. A.M. Strong tour featuring headliner Leigh Jones, hip-hop band Animate Objects, comedians Jessi Campbell and Drew Thomas, and Soldier performers. The show is an uplifting entertainment tour emphasizing the I. A.M. Strong message of sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention.

Performers will host a meet and greet autograph session March 19, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at the Grafenwoehr Dining Facility, Building 101, and another session at the PX from 1 – 2 p.m. The main event will start at 8 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center next to the dining facility. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

In the event you can't attend the tour at Grafenwoehr, you can also catch it at Hohenfels the following day, March 20, at The Zone, from 7-9 p.m.

*Command Sgt. Maj.
William Berries
CSM, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Entschuldigung

In the March 3 edition, "172nd Inf. Bde., partners prep for reset," page 4, Spc. Bethany L. Little was listed as 2SCR Public Affairs; she writes for 172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs.

In "New year offers more opportunities for single Soldiers," page 9, we reported the Hohenfels Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president as Sgt. Charise Kelly. Kelly's rank is sergeant first class.

Also, Netzaberg Elementary School's A Honor Roll, page 6, was inadvertently omitted. Below is that list of stellar students.

Netzaberg Elementary School A Honor Roll

Alec Argueta	Kirstyn Korte	Christopher San Nicolas
Grace Bartlebaugh	Angelea Lance	Dakota Scroggins
Matthew Bergosh	Leary Marquis	Jeremy Smith
Matthew Craig	Monica Martinez	Sydney Thornbrugh
Dean Owen	Jennifer Maxwell	Jalen Vasques
Andres Garcia	Ashleigh Moore	Patrick Whitworth
Armanda Greenley	Nathan Nunez	James Wik
Jake Griswold	Brianna Putnam	Ariana Wilson
Sierra Hardy	Ken Rassavong	Aryana Ybay
Jazen Hernandez	Katherine Redden	Katana Yuhico
Nathalie Herrera	Rachelle Romero	
Kathryn Korte	Hugo Rucobo	

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Ronald Toland

German, US Soldiers join forces in fun

Story and photo by
MOLLY HAYDEN
Bavarian News

German Soldiers from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy (Unteroffizierschule des Heeres) in Weiden, Germany, met with American Soldiers as part of the German Soldiers' program to aid in both their language skills and continue to foster the relationship between the two countries.

Additionally, German Soldiers were exposed to the Warrior Adventure Quest (WAQ), joining forces with American Soldiers in a friendly, yet competitive, game of "re-ball."

Played exactly like paintball, re-ball replaces the paint-filled ammunition with a reusable plastic ball, allowing more rounds on the playing field.

"We are learning a lot today," said Feldwebel Ferdinand Heinrich, a military policeman stationed in Munich. Heinrich said the event was his first experience with both the WAQ program and the sport of re-ball. "This seems like a good program."

WAQ is a unique program designed to aid Soldiers transition from combat to a "new normal," and reduce the potential for high-risk behaviors. Through WAQ, Soldiers are exposed to healthy alternative high-adrenaline activities in a safe, controlled environment.

"I can see this (program) helps to rebuild your mind after a deployment," said Feldwebel Alex Melmann, an airborne infantryman for the German army. "After talking to the Soldiers we can see we have many of the same experiences. If it helps them, I think it will help us, too."

Melmann also enjoyed interacting with American Soldiers.

"Everyone is smiling," he said. "We are all having a good time and



German and American Soldiers join forces for a friendly, but competitive, game of re-ball as part of the Warrior Adventure Quest, March 4.

are working together."

Upon arrival to the re-ball field, in Vilseck, Germany, Soldiers split up into six teams and talked strategy. Each team, consisting of one American Soldier and four German soldiers, took to the field to compete in various games. Soldiers dodged behind inflatable barriers and tried to avoid the plastic projectiles.

Outdoor Recreation offers numerous activities in addition to re-ball as part of the WAQ program, including a high ropes course, klettersteig and hiking. Each adventure builds camaraderie among returning Soldiers and starts them on a path to a healthy reintegration. However, teamwork is essential. The game of re-ball allowed the two armies to hone their leadership skills

and strengthen their rapport.

"This is a chance to join forces (with German soldiers) and see how the other side works," said Sgt. Courtney Carson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Infantry Brigade. "This program encompasses team building; we are working together, all differences aside."

Recreation Specialist Jeff Carson, from Rose Barracks Outdoor Recreation, agreed. "Out here there are no ranks or division of country," said Carson. "Both German and American Soldiers face the same stressors and although they represent different countries, they have shared experiences."

After many adrenaline-boosting

hours, the Soldiers gathered for a leader led after-action debriefing.

This debriefing gave the Soldiers a chance to identify strengths on which they could capitalize, in both themselves and their new battle buddies.

Carson hopes that recognizing those skills will enhance their team-building strengths on and off the battlefield.

"It's about unit cohesion," said Carson. "We are here to work together, help each other, regardless of the task."

WAQ is centrally funded through the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, with oversight from the Installation Management Command and regional FMWR recreation managers.

18th Engineers vie for 'Best Sapper' honors

Story and photo by
Spc. AMANDA RIGDON
21st TSC Public Affairs

Determination and a desire to be the best was all the motivation needed for the 10 two-man buddy teams from the 18th Engineer Brigade who battled for the title of U.S. Army Europe's best sapper team at Grafenwoehr, Feb. 21-23.

The sapper teams, who represented the subordinate units of the 18th Eng. Bde., also competed for the chance to represent USAREUR at the Army-level Best Sapper competition in April.

In the end, Capt. David Vasquez, a training and plans officer with the 54th Engineer Battalion, and 1st Lt. Brett Fuller, a platoon leader with the 370th Engineer Company, 54th Eng. Bn., both from Bamberg, Germany, earned the bragging rights and claimed victory as USAREUR's best sapper team.

Of the 20 competitors, only eight of the engineers were sapper qualified; the others said they hoped the competition would help them prepare for their attendance at the Army's Sapper Leader Course in the future.

"I was trying to go to sapper school before I was sent to the Warrior Leader Course," said Sgt. Robert Larson, an engineer who works at the 54th Eng. Bn. Public Affairs Office. "I think that competing in the best sapper competition without a tab will help with getting into the school."

The competition started bright and early on day one with a nonstandard physical fitness test. The teams had five minutes to perform as many push-ups and sit-ups as possible and three minutes to complete as many pull-ups as they could. The test also included a three-mile run wearing interceptor body armor vests.

Vasquez and Fuller scored the highest in the fitness test allowing them to take an early lead in the competition.

Next, competitors took a written exam on demolitions, which contained a hands-on portion of three lanes with simulated C-4 explosive charges. Each team had 10 minutes to find and describe any deficiencies with the charges.

During dinner, many of the engineer teams took time to strategize their next event—a 15-mile road march. The route was two laps around Camp Aachen, but the organizers decided to make it a little more challenging and changed the route to



Sgt. 1st Class Semaje Ried, a platoon sergeant with the 902nd Engineer Vertical Company, 15th Engineer Battalion, loads a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon machine gun during the Best Sapper competition at Grafenwoehr, Feb. 22.

include a third lap.

"The ruck march was difficult, but not because of the distance," said Vasquez. "Throwing in that extra lap was a real demotivator—seeing the finish line and then having to go around again. I think that was the most painful part, emotionally."

The second morning the competitors started the day at three demolition ranges, which included a timber charge, a concrete-counter charge and a charge used to force open doors during military operations on urban terrain.

Following the demolitions range, the competitors immediately moved to the weapons range, where they qualified with the M203 grenade launcher, M240B machine gun, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, M16 rifle and the M9 pistol.

After a Meal, Ready-to-Eat lunch, Soldiers completed five indoor lanes, which included combat lifesaver, steel cutting, poncho rafts and two weapon-assembly lanes.

Vasquez and Fuller continued to complete the tasks the fastest and maintained their lead

in the competition, followed closely by 1st Lt. Daniel Vitale, the executive officer of the 541st Engineer Company, 54th Eng. Bn., and 1st Lt. Michael Bradwick, the executive officer of the 42nd Clearance Company, 54th Eng. Bn.

The last event of the competition was a nine-mile run, which took place on day three immediately following a night land navigation course. During the run competitors had to complete seven different tasks, five of which involved carrying items such as logs or 180-pound dummies.

Vasquez and Fuller took top honors, and Vitale and Bradwick finished second in the competition. Taking home the third place award was 1st Lt. Eric Sears, an assistant operations officer for the 15th Engineer Battalion, and Pfc. Blake Easterly, a heavy construction operator with the 500th Engineer Horizontal Company, 15th Eng. Bn.

All three top-finishing teams will represent the 21st Theater Sustainment Command and USAREUR at the Army-level competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in April.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS
GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA

FACT FILE

1910 2010

Grafenwoehr TRAINING AREA

100 YEARS

By Michael Beaton, JMTC Public Affairs

Cardboard and bailing wire tanks take to the range at the Grafenwoehr Training Area

In 1923 the Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA) saw a peculiar training innovation: Cardboard Tanks!



Due to limitations imposed on a defeated Germany following World War I, which disallowed heavily armored or tracked vehicles in the rebuilt German army, beginning in 1923 the training area saw the first experiments with tanks made of bailing wire and pressboard!

These "simulated" tanks allowed officers and troops to explore and experiment with the many configurations, maneuvers, and the coordination of masses of "armor" on the move. From this training sprang the fundamentals of modern tank tactics and the lethal concepts which, in less than decades would come to be known as 'Blitzkrieg'.

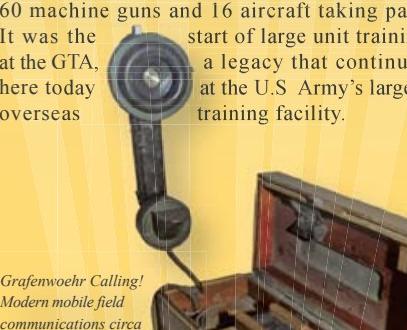


Modern "cutting edge" training at the GTA: Spiked helmets and 50-pound field telephones!

By 1911, more than 10,000 Bavarian soldiers had trained at the newly established Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA). The typical Bavarian Infantry soldier in 1910 was 18 years old, literate, and came from a long tradition of military service. He wore a heavy gray jacket and wool pants, a utility and ammunition belt and leather boots. On his head he wore the iconic steel and leather spiked helmet, and around his neck was a signal flashlight, considered a very "modern" addition to his basic soldier kit.

Balloons and biplanes, both used primarily for aerial observation and artillery spotting, were a familiar sight in the skies above a century ago, as well as the "cutting-field radios, 50-pound, crank-operated devices powered by massive batteries and carried by two men.

By 1913, Grafenwoehr hosted one of the largest documented military exercises prior to World War I, with more than 12,000 soldiers, 540 officers, 1,000 horses, 60 machine guns and 16 aircraft taking part. It was the start of large unit training at the GTA, a legacy that continues at the U.S. Army's largest training facility.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A LIST OF UPCOMING COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL

Engineers honor heritage at Remagen

9th Eng. Bn. remembers pivotal World War II moment with veterans who shaped it

Story and photos by
DAVE MELANCON
U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

REMAGEN, Germany — A footlong piece of railroad track from the famed Ludendorff Bridge taken as a battle souvenir by Soldiers of the 9th Combat Engineer Battalion in 1945 returned here March 7 to take part in a remembrance ceremony.

As the most junior commissioned officer in today's 9th Engineer Battalion, it is 2nd Lt. Michael Sullivan's job to carry and safeguard the track. He is responsible for ensuring it is present for ceremonial events such as this year's commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the battalion's capture of the bridge that carried the first Allied forces across the Rhine as they pressed toward victory over Nazi Germany.

"It is heavy, but it is a source of our pride and heritage," said Sullivan, platoon leader for the 2nd platoon of the battalion's C Company. "It symbolizes the bravery of the engineers who gave their lives that day on the bridge."

The rail, which also accompanied the battalion to Iraq during its last deployment, inspires current "Gila Battalion" engineers to "go out and perform the mission of the engineer," Sullivan said.

The contingent of 20 engineer Soldiers who volunteered to take part in the ceremony here left their home station in Schweinfurt at about 3 a.m. Sullivan said learning about the battalion's history is a regular part of its company-level training, and on the way to Remagen they discussed the battalion's exploits on the bridge. Several of the battalion's leaders are slated



Sgt. 1st Class Philip Gutzler of Schweinfurt, Germany's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, and Jack Jewell, a World War II 9th Infantry Division veteran, share their combat experiences prior to ceremonies commemorating the 65th anniversary of the capture of the famed Ludendorff Bridge, in Remagen, Germany, March 7. Gutzler's grandfather, Pfc. Charles Everett Park, was a tank driver in one of the first 9th Armored Division units to cross the span after its capture.

to return here later this month for a staff ride designed to teach them more about that history and the engineer skills of their World War II forefathers.

After breaking through the Germans' Siegfried

Line and pushing westward toward the Rhine River, Germany's last natural boundary, elements of Combat Command B, 9th Armored Division arrived at Remagen March 7, 1945.

Patrols discovered that the Ludendorff

Bridge, one of the last of 14 bridges spanning the Rhine, was still intact. Engineers from the 9th Engineer Battalion's B Company cut wires leading to demolition charges placed in the bridge's structure by the Germans, preventing its destruction and allowing more than 8,000 allied Soldiers to cross the span during next 24 hours.

For the next 10 days, the Germans hit the bridge with nearly every weapon at their disposal — including newly developed jet aircraft, V-2 rockets and scuba divers. Despite heavy enemy fire, the 9th, 78th and the 99th Infantry Divisions crossed the bridge.

The attacks and heavy use did eventually take their toll. The bridge collapsed March 17, killing 28 U.S. engineers who were shoring up the structure. Still the stream of Allied troops, tanks and equipment continued unabated over pontoon bridges constructed by other engineer units.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, is reported to have said the captured bridge "was a miracle and worth its weight in gold" and would shorten the war in Europe by six months.

"It is incredible to be here at the 65th anniversary of the crossing," Sullivan said. "This is a chance to see where our battalion's history happened in one of the key battles of World War II (that) led to the victory in Europe."

Since the day they helped capture the bridge, the engineers have been indispensable part of the bridge and its history, said Kurt Kleemann, spokesman for the Remagen Bridge Peace Museum.

More than 200 members of the Remagen community, World War II 9th Infantry Division and Belgian army veterans and German Soldiers joined the 9th Engineers for the World War II commemoration and a celebration of the museum's 35th anniversary, he said.

See REMAGEN, page 25

Students reach out to wounded warriors

Story and photo by
NANCY NOLIN
Netzaberg Middle School

"Emerging Leaders" from Netzaberg Middle School (NMS), have declared March 22-26 as "Wounded Warrior Week" at their school. Emerging Leaders is a leadership committee of eighth-grade students who meet twice a month to enhance their leadership qualities and to plan prevention and community projects. Throughout the year they have focused on learning leadership skills, as well as assisting the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services Program with drug prevention projects and community awareness projects. To address leadership qualities such as altruism the students decided to recognize and honor our wounded service members at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

To accomplish this goal, the Emerging Leaders have chosen to collect items in various locations in the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities. Once collected, students will sort and package the items and give them to Dr. Elizabeth Childs, principal of Netzaberg Middle School, who will take the gift bags to Landstuhl later this spring.

The "Wounded Warrior Week" has grown from a small goal to a large project. The Emerging Leaders students were only going to collect a few items at the school. However, during a brainstorming session and with the support of some parents they realized that they could expand their efforts.

"The reason we added additional locations for collection points was to involve the community and we want our collection drive to be successful for our Soldiers," said Meraleigh Randle. "The more we can collect then the more we can send to Landstuhl for our Soldiers."

Cody Wilson agreed.

"This project is important because we want the Soldiers to know that they are important to us and that we care about them," Wilson said.

Students are using the leadership skills they have learned to make this a successful collection drive. They have developed a plan, brainstormed and evaluated their ideas, organized the logistics and are implementing the steps to reach as many people as possible. Chris O'Neil said he enjoyed the logistical part of the plan, which included making and decorating the collection boxes for the Wounded Warrior Week.

Collection boxes will be placed at the Vilseck Craft Fair, March 20; at



From left to right: Emerging Leaders Meraleigh R., Cody W., Ryan B. and Chris O. from Netzaberg Middle School build donation boxes for Wounded Warrior Week. Students are collecting toiletries and snack items which will be distributed to wounded warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

the Grafenwoehr Thrift Store through March 27; and a collection box at Netzaberg Middle School the week of March 22-26.

Emerging Leaders are asking for donations of toiletry items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs) and packaged snacks such as canned peanuts, beef jerky, Slim Jims, granola bars and hard candy.

They are requesting that donated cookies and chips be the type in crush-proof containers such as Pringles chips. Additionally, Sudoku and crossword puzzle books will be collected for the wounded warriors.

For more information or to donate items for the project contact Nancy Nolin, Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services counselor at Netzaberg Middle School, DSN 472-9250, CIV 09645-917-9250.

Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services is a school-based program addressing prevention and intervention needs related to substance abuse education and treatment at the Netzaberg Middle School and Vilseck High School.

Editor's Note: Nancy Nolin is an Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services Counselor at Netzaberg Middle School.

Strength in Diversity

Ammo manager keeps Soldiers locked, loaded

by Maj. JENNIFER R. JOHNSON
JMTCP Public Affairs

Every commander knows the best training plans in the world are useless without the proper resources. When training, Soldiers need more than motivation when they head into a fire-fight. They need ammunition. That is where Roy Hale, U.S. Army Europe's deputy training ammunition officer, comes in.

"Units in this theater do not suffer from a lack of training ammunition to support required annual training," said Hale. "That is a testament to the dedication and attention to detail the entire ammunition team demonstrates on a daily basis."

As a former Soldier, Hale says his connection and interaction with Soldiers today comes



Hale

naturally.

With 26 years of federal service under his belt, he doesn't plan to stop anytime soon

"I enjoy coming to work every day. Each day presents a different challenge," said Hale.

Hale is responsible for resourcing over \$200 million worth of training ammunition annually for USAREUR.

"The authorizations that Mr. Hale manages and validates on a daily basis allows all Soldiers throughout Europe to qualify on their assigned weapons, and all weapon platforms to be able to

train and sustain proficiency to go to war," said Chief Warrant Officer Ronnie Henry, chief of the USAREUR Training Ammunition Management Office and Hale's supervisor.

Hale's customers hail from units throughout Europe, including U.S. Europe Command, USAREUR, Special Operations Command Europe, Kosovo Forces and separate units whose higher headquarters reside in the continental United States.

One unit who depends on his expertise to guide them through the ammunition acquisition process is the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

"Mr. Hale's support allows my BCT to

See HALE, page 25

Pace setter



Photo by Molly Hayden

Paul Staso, founder and president of The "Promoting Active Children Everywhere Fitness Foundation (PACE), talks with students at Grafenwoehr Elementary School about health and fitness, March 8.

The ultra-endurance athlete is currently running a 500-mile course through Germany during the month of March, stopping at many Department of Defense schools along the way to share his story.

Staso ran solo across the United States in 2006; across Montana in 2008; and through Alaska in 2009, while thousands of children worldwide trekked along with him via a virtual interface.

Have an idea for a story?

Contact the Bavarian News at jeremy.buddeleier@eur.army.mil, trecia.wilson@eur.army.mil, or call DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113.

Virtual training the real deal

Story and photo by
CHRISTIAN MARQUARDT
JMTC Public Affairs

Training Support Activity Europe (TSAE) has fielded the Army's newest virtual training device and it is open for business to U.S. Army Europe Soldiers.

The Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer (RVTT) officially opened during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the Grafenwoehr Training Area's Camp Aachen, Feb. 18.

The RVTT is unlike traditional computer simulators or engagement skills trainers because it surrounds Soldiers in a realistic, 360-degree virtual world, said David Darnall, Soldier Program Manager for the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC).

"In any other computer simulations you're constrained by a 14, 18 or 19-inch monitor that you view your world through," said Darnall.

"All of the RVTT simulators that we have are 360 degrees," said Darnall. "There's no such thing as moving your mouse to glance right. In here, you glance right and you see the terrain moving. It becomes much more immersive."

The RVTT system consists of a series of trailers equipped with four life-size replica Humvees surrounded by floor-to-ceiling movie screens. These simulators contain everything you would find in a real Humvee, to include secure radios, individual and crew-served weapons, and current command and control systems. Soldiers familiar with their equipment require only moments to be fully operational in the simulator. A third trailer provides command and control and full after-action review capabilities.

The system can accommodate a whole platoon training simultaneously on the same mission, said Darnall.

"The last (simulator) we did was not this advanced," said Spc. Selah Hadi, who went through the RVTT as part of the JMTC's Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training (TSIRT) course.

"This was more realistic, fun, I mean. I always enjoy doing stuff like this," said Hadi.

The RVTT simulators can save commanders immense time, particularly when the unit is conducting complex training missions, said Darnall. The RVTT is equally capable of helping units train basic drills and tasks or enabling well-trained units to conduct more complex and demanding training, some of which would be impossible to replicate in a live training



Soldiers go through a counter-IED mission in the Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer (RVTT), at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Feb. 26. The 360-degree simulator is the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command's newest virtual training device.

environment.

"For example, say a commander wanted to go out to (Grafenwoehr's) Range 118 and do convoy training with IEDs," said Darnall. "If he has a really good day and his Soldiers are motivated, maybe he can do three iterations with his platoon. Here in the virtual simulator, you could easily do 10 to 12 repetitions a day."

Each RVTT scenario is fully customizable by the training unit, said Darnall. Currently, the RVTT has access to eight terrain databases, which include northern California, the National Training Center, and the ranges and training sites of the JMTC's Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas.

Even though it looks like a giant arcade game, the Army has made all the scenarios and the simulator equipment as realistic as possible, said Darnall.

"You're going to have the same rate of acceleration in (RVTT's Humvee). You're going to have the same rate of fire on that weapon as you would in real life," said Darnall. "You have to do the things you would normally do to be successful."

In addition to RVTT, the JMTC's Virtual Device Training Facility (VDTF) will eventually

also incorporate the current armored vehicle simulators (Mobile Close Combat Tactical Trainers) and the Virtual Battle Space 2 (VBS 2) desktop mission simulators with the future Dismounted Soldier Virtual Trainer, a system that will allow up to 12 Soldiers to physically maneuver through a three-dimensional virtual world with the use of goggles and body sensors, said Darnall.

When it's fully operational, the VDTF will be able to simultaneously train up to a battalion of soldiers in one location on virtual missions, said Darnall.

"Right now we don't have the capability to plug everything together," said Darnall. "When we get the other simulators that are coming in, they will arrive being able to be plugged into each other."

"Beyond that, the only limitation is what the unit commander's imagination is," said Darnall.

JMTC's Training Support Activity Europe (TSAE) identifies, acquires, manages, and sustains training resources to support all echelons of training throughout Europe. TSAE is geographically dispersed throughout Europe at Regional and Training Support Centers in 18 cities and six countries.



Photo by Richard Sehr

As one Soldier learned, improperly disposing of garbage can net hefty fines.

Soldier fined for dumping

by **SABINA WAECHTER**
City of Grafenwoehr

Dumping garbage improperly can be very costly as a recent case in Grafenwoehr has proven.

In February, a U.S. Soldier was seen dumping his garbage next to a container for garden waste in the Grafenwoehr subdivision of Bruckendorfsgmuend.

Based upon the recorded license plate and with the help of the German police and the military police station in Vilseck, the Soldier was easily identified.

It took four employees of the City of Grafenwoehr's Department of Public Works and two vehicles to clean up the mess left behind at the garden waste container.

As a result, the Soldier was not only fined for illegally dumping garbage, but was also charged with the cost for the employee work hours, the equipment used and the cost for having to professionally empty the waste container.

The total bill was more than 300 euros, which the Soldier paid to the City of Grafenwoehr prior to PCSing to the United States.

Community members who have bulk waste or household devices that cannot be disposed of through the regular, household-size garbage and waste containers, may order a large garbage container from one of the following local companies: Brewitzer GmbH, 92655 Grafenwoehr, CIV 09641-2245; Bergler, 92729 Weiherhammer, CIV 09605-92020; and Kraus, 92670 Windischeschenbach, CIV 09681-92050.

Wolfpack marches in Belgium

by **Spc. AUDREY GLYNN**
2SCR Public Affairs

LA GLEIZE, Belgium — Freezing temperatures, heavy snowfall and bitter cold winds mixed with thin soled boots and enemy fire can lead to many interesting stories. In conditions much like these, minus the enemy fire, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers traveled to Belgium to participate in the 82nd Airborne All American Historical Society's March in the Footsteps of the 82nd Airborne Division. The 23-kilometer march began in La Gleize, Belgium, Feb. 20, and followed a course through the villages of Brume, Rahier, Cheneux, La Vaux Renard, before ending back in La Gleize.

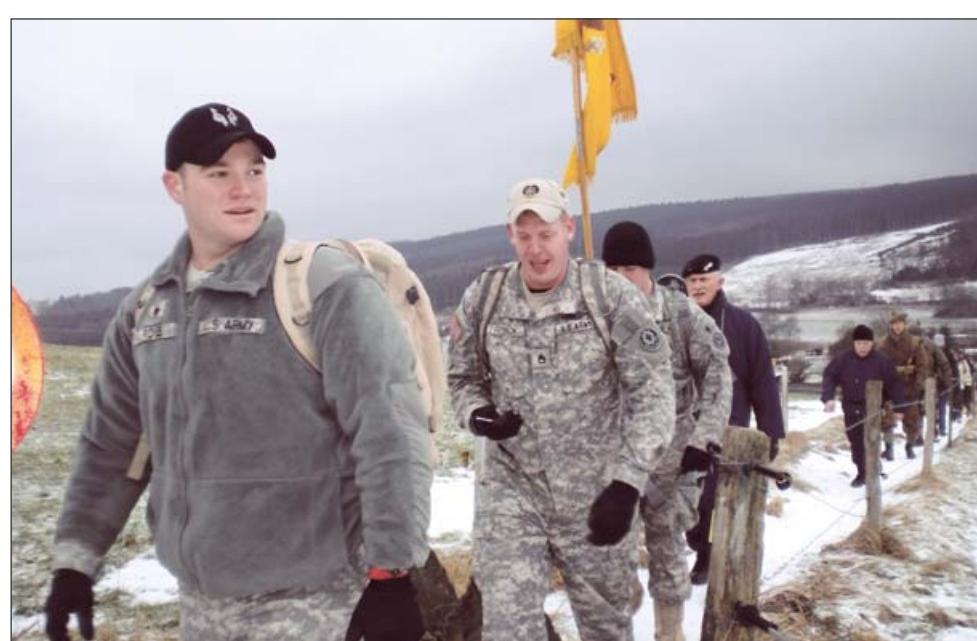
The march was dedicated to the troopers of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment who were a part of the famous 82nd Airborne Division during World War II. The German Army launched a surprise offensive to the Ardennes Forest, Dec. 16, 1944, which caught the allies completely off guard. The 82nd moved into action the next day in response to the enemy ambush and stopped German units from breaching northern American lines. The 82nd attacked in the Vielsalm-St. Vith region and the 504th PIR took Monceau, Dec. 20. This fierce attack forced the German units back across the Ambleve River the next day.

Veterans and their families, U.S. Army Soldiers, and even some Belgian soldiers made their way through the course sharing story after story about life in the military. Sgt. 1st Class Richard Griffith of 3rd Squadron 2SCR was there with his son Christian, to carry the squadron colors and pay tribute to fallen Soldiers who came before him.

"It's important to keep the memory of the past alive through re-enactments," he said. "Reflecting on the battles and the bloodshed can help us relate to what we are going through now and what we are trying to accomplish."

Griffith also said that this was an especially important event for him and his son to share.

"My son is 17 years old and in Junior



Courtesy photo

Wolfpack troopers from 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, follow the trail marched by the 82nd Airborne during World War II in La Gleize, Belgium.

Reserve Officer Training. It was such a great feeling to have him beside me through the whole march carrying the squadron colors."

Pfc. John Finlay Johnson, whose grandfather happens to be a World War II veteran, is a self-proclaimed World War II buff who was more than happy to participate in the day's events.

"It was a very enlightening experience to be out there with the men who fought for our country so many years ago," Johnson said. "Marching through the countryside was so peaceful and then you would look over and see a foxhole and you know that a serious battle was fought right where you were standing."

At each resting point war veterans would stop and talk with the Soldiers. Johnson recalled a story from one former private first class who pointed out a nearby ditch

and explained how he laid there and "played dead" for a while as his position was being strafed with enemy machine-gun fire.

At the end of the march, everyone gathered to share anecdotes, food and bits of wisdom. The 3rd Squadron Wolfpack finished the six-hour hike out front, but it wasn't about finishing first. The purpose of the journey was to honor of those Soldiers who served and fought for their lives, their families and future generations' freedom.

Johnson felt a strong connection to the site and, if given the chance, would gladly march the route again.

"I recommend this experience to any and everyone who would like to pay tribute to the Soldiers who fought before us. Many of them gave their lives for our freedom, honoring them in this special way is the least we can do."

2SCR Soldier gets keys to his new kingdom

by **Spc. JERRY WILSON**
2SCR Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Mike Minard of 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, encountered a tragic incident that forever changed his life, Oct. 1, 2007. Minard, who was on his third tour of duty in Iraq, was on patrol north of Sadr City in Baghdad, when a roadside bomb hit his Stryker. The blast ripped through his vehicle and caused Minard to lose both his legs just above the knee.

Minard spent the next two years at Walter Reed Medical Center, where he was in a coma for the first few months.

After many surgical procedures to fight infection, Minard was finally fitted with a set of prosthetic legs. While recovering at Walter Reed, the 2nd Cavalry Association joined forces with organizations such as Homes for Our Troops to ensure the 28 year-old Union Beach, N.J., native, his wife and two children received a special gift in time for Christmas 2009.

Through a concentrated effort and many volunteer hours, Minard and his family returned to a completely rebuilt and specially adapted house that allows Minard to maneuver freely in his wheelchair. Association members and many volunteers from the community worked tirelessly to prepare the house for the family's homecoming. This preparation included shoveling large amounts of snow, which had accumulated during the harsh New Jersey winter.

Minard and his family took possession of their new home, Dec. 21, which had been lovingly decorated for the holidays. The keys were presented during a ceremony held to honor Minard and all the organizations and volunteers who made his home a reality.

The 2nd Cavalry Association has continued in its efforts to help the Minard family. It raised \$3,500 to help with the family's expenses and has established a fund to help the Minard's pay off the mortgage on their home.

Minard is continuing his education and is currently working toward his degree.

He will also be starting a job with a defense contractor headquartered in Fort Dix, N.J. Minard will be training Soldiers using his experience with Stryker vehicles, weapons and equipment.

Skin-to-skin contact has advantages for newborns

Parent Support Program helps new mothers, babies feel more secure

by JUDY KAMARA
Army Community Service

Wanting to be a successful parent and knowing how to be can sometimes seem worlds apart. First time parents are particularly vulnerable as they approach labor and the birth of their baby. They may doubt themselves. "Will we be good enough parents?" "Will we know what to do?"

With a little help and a few tips from the New Parent Support Program, parents can learn skills that will help them feel more confident and connected to their babies.

Skin-to-skin contact is something mothers have instinctually done for generations. However, the "medicalization" of childbirth often disrupts this natural and essential process. The routines of the in-patient hospital settings often call for the separation of infant and mother even if the infant is taken only a few feet away to a mechanical warmer. It

benefits everyone when families and birthing facilities can work together to minimize or eliminate completely the amount of time mothers and fathers are separated from their infants.

What are the benefits of holding your infant's bare body against your naked skin? Both mother and baby go through significant changes immediately after the birth. For instance, a baby must for the first time, regulate its own body temperature and blood sugar levels. Skin-to-skin contact against the mother or father's chest helps to do this perfectly. A parent's chest will actually raise or lower its temperature according to the needs of their baby.

A birth baby's brain is also quite immature and therefore a baby's nervous system may take time to coordinate between intentional movement, (what a baby wants to do) and what the baby's brain is capable of telling it to do.

Have you ever noticed how "jittery" and "jumpy" a newborn seems to get when it is put down. These uncoordinated movements become more purposeful and calm when a baby is held in the skin-to-skin position.

Skin-to-skin contact is essential

for allowing the baby to choose the right time to initiate feeding. Babies go through nine recognizable stages during the first hour after birth. Interrupting that natural process can make feeding difficult and frustrating for both mother and baby.

And last, but not least, skin-to-skin contact allows the baby to feel safe, secure and connected to its parents. There are chemical changes in the brain that happen for both mother and infant during skin-to-skin contact. These changes have a calming effect and cause mother and baby to "bond" or "imprint" with one another. This is critical for optimal developmental growth of the newborn, as well as the physical and mental well being of the mother.

For more information on Skin-to-Skin contact and infant care, as well as our other programs, call the New Parent Support Program at DSN 476-3432, CIV 09662-38-3432.

We'd be happy to visit you in your home to develop a healthy beginning for you and your growing family.

Editor's Note: Judy Kamara is a registered nurse who works as a home visitor for the New Parent Support Program in Vilseck, Germany.

Library, publishing system merge

by NATASCHA SYRE
IMCOM-E Document Management Branch

This month, the Army in Europe Electronic Library and the Army in Europe Publishing System merged to form a new and improved Web site – The Army in Europe Library & Publishing System.

This Web site is the official electronic library and ordering system for publications and forms. It provides online policy and information for Army in Europe Soldiers and family members, Department of the Army and local national employees, contractors, publications managers, action officers and executive officers throughout Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia.

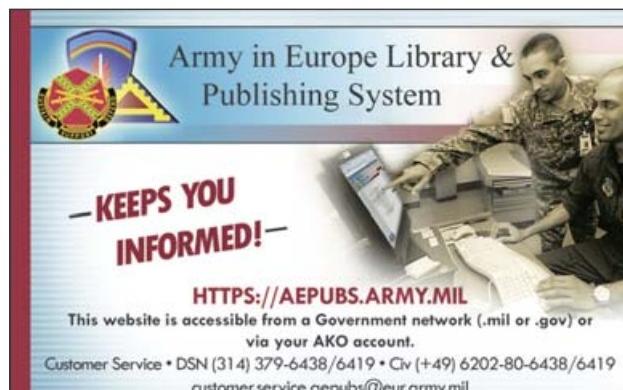
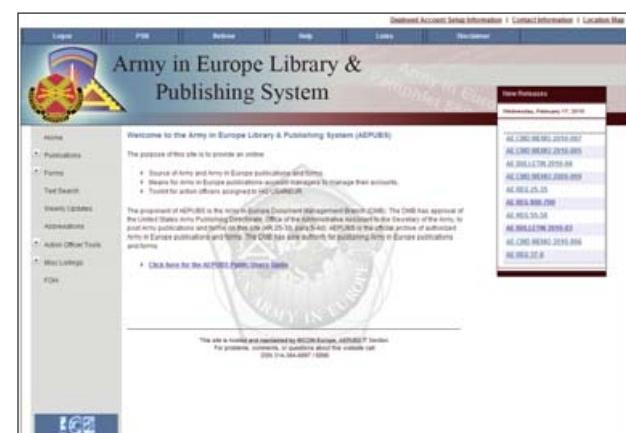
The Army in Europe Library & Publishing System provides an online source of Army and Army in Europe publications and forms; a means for Army in Europe

publications-account managers to manage their publications; and a toolkit for action officers.

Visitors can find official policy and information on topics such as: registering vehicles in Germany, deployment & reunion information, birth registrations, local national and DOD employment entitlements, traffic regulations or tax rules in Europe, school-aged services, a Welcome to Europe guide, information on sponsorship, medical phrases in English and German, educational entitlements, information on obtaining ID cards or passports, and much more.

The Army in Europe Library & Publishing System is accessible from a government network (.mil or .gov) or via an AKO account at <https://aepubs.army.mil>.

For customer questions or comments, contact the Army in Europe Publications Control Officer at customer.service.aepubs@eur.army.mil.



USO gives trips to deserving Soldiers



Photo by Trecia A. Wilson

Cpl. Oscar Valdez, right, an aviation specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Infantry Brigade, learns from Sgt. Anthony Signorello, Delta Co., Warrior Transition Unit, the best way to maneuver a snowboard. Valdez was one of 10 Soldiers awarded a free ski trip by the Grafenwoehr USO.

Linda Lorenzana, Grafenwoehr's USO director, said this was the first time they had awarded this kind of trip, but it won't be the last. Every two months, the USO will contact local tenant units for the names of deserving Soldiers and 10 people will be selected. Trips will be different based on current weather. Those whose names were submitted but didn't make the first round picks, will be kept in the pot for the next trip opportunity.

"This was a really nice thing for them (USO) to do," said Valdez. "I've never snowboarded before, but my friends said they would help me learn, so I'm going to go and make the best of it."

RETIREE CORNER

Foreign bank account holders must report aggregate amounts over \$10k

by Retired Sgt. Maj. DAVE STEWART
Garrison Retiree Council

Taxes

This issue, I have a few more words to add on filing taxes for retirees living permanently in Germany. Here is some additional information on foreign bank accounts. We reported the obligation to claim the interest on these accounts, which can include checking, savings and others such as a mortgage savings account or Bausparkonto.

If the aggregate sum of all accounts held surpasses \$10,000 in the calendar year, U.S. law requires that we report each account on the Treasury Department Form TD F 9-0-22.1. This form is not sent with one's tax return but is filed separately with the Department of the Treasury.

If you haven't done this previously the law requires that the filer correct this situation and report these accounts for each of the previous years when this situation existed. The IRS has a dollar-euro conversion rate for each year on its Web site to assist you in completing the form. The form and instructions

are easily found on the internet by simply typing in the form number in search engine, or one can visit the Garrison Tax Office for assistance.

The payment of SBP or RSFPP is not subject to federal income tax withholding if the payment is to a person who resides in and is a citizen of a country that has an income tax treaty with the United States. The U.S. currently has such a treaty with Germany. The IRS Treasury W-8BEN form will establish such relief from U.S. income tax.

Survivors may be U.S. citizens, resident aliens or nonresident aliens and with each status there are different income tax implications. To determine if SBP or RSFPP payments are considered taxable income by the IRS, contact the Legal Assistance Office.

Pay host nation providers directly

There has been an increase in the number of Tricare patients who have not paid their host nation health care providers for medical services they received. This is leading many medical services to ask for payment up front. Most retirees living here permanently know that we must pay the provider directly.

There has been an occasional misunderstanding where patients thought that the bill was sent to Tricare for settlement, particularly in the case of referrals. Patients own the responsibility for settling these accounts. We don't want to jeopardize health provider services within our growing footprint and, above all, we want to maintain a good image with our hosts.

Newspapers at AAFES

The Retiree Council recently asked the AAFES facility manager to establish a newspaper stand that held several day issues of the Stars and Stripes, the International Herald Tribune and the USA Today. The manager agreed.

We requested this action since we were aware that many retirees cannot get to the garrison on a daily basis and old news is sometimes news that affects all of us. Thanks AAFES for your support to retirees.

The Retiree Council meets this month and I will report our deliberations in the next issue. Stay safe. Winter hasn't left us yet.

Editor's Note: Retired Sgt. Maj. Dave Stewart is the president of the Garrison Retiree Council.

On-call medical teams available for sexual assault victims 24/7

BAVARIA MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY News Release

The Bavaria Medical Department Activity now has three medical teams on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist sexual assault patients.

There is a team designated for the Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck area; a team for the Bamberg and Schweinfurt area; and a team for the Ansbach area. Previously, all sexual assault victims were treated at a host nation hospital.

"We're trying to expand the services we offer to our beneficiaries," said Col. Iris West, chief of medical management.

The BMEDDAC sexual assault medical

teams consist of a physician and a medic who have been specifically trained to handle sexual assault cases.

"Our medical teams go through intensive training," West said. "This includes both medical and nonmedical training such as working with the Judge Advocate General's office and the criminal investigation unit."

If a person is sexually assaulted during normal duty hours, he or she can walk into their local health clinic and receive immediate care. After duty hours, the person should contact their local victim advocate or chaplain. In turn, they will contact the sexual assault response coordinator who will then contact the closest sexual assault medical team.

"Our goal is to be waiting for the patient when they arrive at the clinic," West said. "Regardless

of time of day, we want the patient to know that we're there for them."

Sexual assault patients who are 12 years old and younger will continue being treated by a pediatric specialist at a host nation hospital.

People who are sexually assaulted and sustain life-threatening injuries will also be taken to a host nation hospital where emergency room personnel can treat their other injuries.

"We're very fortunate to have such capable host nation providers who partner with us on these medical cases," West said.

"The majority of sexual assault patients do not suffer life-threatening injuries, but if they do, I'm very comfortable sending them to a host nation hospital for care."

For more, contact your local Army health clinic or visit your garrison's home page.

Warrior Medic Memorial



Photo by Jennifer Walsh

Staff Sgt. Victor Gomez reflects on fallen comrades at the Warrior Medic Memorial at the Bavaria Medical Department Activity headquarters on Rose Barracks, recently. The memorial was started by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and recognizes each fallen medic since 2001. It will travel to different medical units around the world and stay at each location for one month. The memorial's next stop is Italy.

Small steps lead to better eating habits

March is National Nutrition Month

by Capt. JENNIFER LEE
BMEDDAC

National Nutrition Month is an education and information campaign sponsored by the American Dietetic Association. The campaign is designed to focus on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

This year's theme is "Nutrition from the Ground Up." Begin eating better by making small changes, starting with the basics: choose a variety of fruits and vegetables; avoid fats, added sugar and salt; and eat in moderation. However, to be able to stick to the dietary changes, you may also need to change your environment. For example, if your goal is to eat more fruits and vegetables, then you need to have them readily available. Knowing what changes you need to make is the first step.

Here are some eating habits that can lead to weight gain: skipping meals, eating when not hungry and eating too fast.

There are many small changes you can make for better health. Small changes over a long period of time can be very effective.

Set small, yet realistic and specific goals such as: "I will walk for 15 minutes a day, three days this week" or "I will eat at least one fruit and one vegetable everyday this week."

Start eating breakfast. Some ideas include: cereal with milk, fruit with yogurt, toast with peanut butter or last night's leftovers.

Use cooking spray instead of butter for cooking.

Avoid the vending machine and pack your own snacks. Some ideas: 94 percent fat-free popcorn, light or fat-free yogurt, fruits, vegetables, nuts or hummus with whole wheat crackers or pita bread.

Cut calories by changing what you drink. Calories are not just in food.

Choose either alcohol or dessert, but not both in the same meal.

Use fat-free milk instead of whole milk.

Just by cutting out 100 calories per day, you will lose one pound per month. That's 12 pounds in a year. Start achieving and maintaining a healthy weight now. Eat right and get moving.

For more, visit www.healthierus.gov and www.mypyramid.gov.

Editor's Note: Capt. Jennifer Lee is the Bavaria Medical Department Activity chief of nutrition. Contact her at DSN 476-3216, CIV 09662-83-3216.



National Nutrition Month® March 2010
American Dietetic Association

Communication is key to good dental health

by RALINDA EATHERINGTON
Bavaria Dental Activity

Healthy Conversations for Safer Health care is the focus for National Patient Safety Awareness Week, which was March 7-13. The Europe Regional Dental Command (ERDC) through the Bavaria, Heidelberg and Landstuhl dental activities is promoting initiatives that will improve communication not only between dental care providers and their patients, but between dentists as they transfer care of a patient to another dental care provider.

Health care can be difficult to understand. Dentists, physicians, nurses and other dental and medical health care workers spend many years learning about diseases and how to effectively provide appropriate care to us. The other part of our dental care and health care team responsibilities is to communicate effectively with each other and with our patients.

ERDC invested thousands of man-hours since September 2009 to improve communications between dental care providers. We have adopted Team STEPPS, which was adapted from the airline industry crew resource management training. This training is designed to help us improve our communications with the use of

several tools.

You may hear these tools being used in our clinics. One example is a check-back. A check-back is when one member of the dental care team makes a statement and another team member repeats the information back to show that the information has been received, understood, and the second team member agrees with the information. An example would be where the dentist says "We are performing an extraction on tooth number 1 today." The assistant says "Yes, we are removing tooth number 1 today."

When we provide this training to our staff, we encourage them to use these tools as part of their everyday activities. You can use these tools at home with your family, too. How many times have you said something to your child or spouse and received a response equal to "Yes, dear"? If you were to use the check-back tool and have them repeat back what you have asked or said, you might find that what they heard is not what you said.

I recently received a note from one of our dentists who said he uses this with his small children. It can make a huge difference. Try it. You might even try repeating what you hear when you are speaking with your dental or medical care providers. You might be amazed at the results.

As dental health care providers, we need to assist you, our patients, with tools to ask questions and initiate healthy conversations.

In our patient safety newsletter "Protecting You and Your Smile," we strive to provide you with tools and resources to accomplish this. Published quarterly, the newsletter is available throughout Europe in the dental clinic waiting room. Pick up a copy – it's full of useful information that you can share with your family and friends.

One more tool that you might really find useful is the Situation Background Assessment Recommendation (SBAR). This tool can be used to provide your dentist or doctor with information they need in a concise and standardized format. Let me show you.

Situation: I have a toothache on the lower left side of my mouth. Background: It's been hurting for two days. It's a throbbing pain. On a scale of 1-10 – it's a 7. Assessment: I think I might have chipped my tooth when I had peanut brittle the other day. Recommendation: Will you take a look at it and tell me what we need to do? Can we save the tooth?

Let's talk! Have a healthy conversation with us. Let's make sure the care you receive is as safe as you have come to expect in our clinics.

a shot of advice



by Lt. Col. STEPHEN LINCK
BMEDDAC

Q. I am a 41-year-old female and recently had a complete work up of labs, a mammogram and a woman's wellness exam. I am 5 feet, 1 inch tall and weigh 200 pounds. All the results came back OK, but I am concerned with my weight. With my family history of heart disease and diabetes, I may be at risk.

Although I was referred to a nutritionist, I have not been called to schedule the appointment. What are my options? I would like some professional support to help me get through this.

Thank you, Nervous in Nuremberg

A. Dear Nervous,

I am sorry to hear that we haven't made an appointment with you for a nutrition consult yet. We will do our best to find out what happened. You have already identified some significant risk factors for heart disease and diabetes: family history and weight. Your Body Mass Index is 37.8 and anything over 30 is considered obese.

Right now, the best prescription I can recommend is exercise. You don't need to start with anything strenuous, only 30 minutes of easy walking three to four times a week is a great start. Simple exercise is the one miracle drug that can help prevent heart disease, diabetes, and stroke and is even proven to help you live longer. Part of your nutrition consult will include a recommendation for exercise so starting now will help give you a head start.

Q. I will soon be PCSing to Vilseck. My wife is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program for allergies and asthma. Is there care at or near Vilseck for her condition? I know this is a very broad question, but any advice is greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Planner in Pennsylvania

A. Dear Planner,

We have facilities at both Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks, which is located near Vilseck. If you are not a Tricare Prime beneficiary, there are also wonderful host nation facilities available. The great part of the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is that it screens family members to make sure the medical facilities are capable of caring for your family. The purpose of EFMP is to make sure Soldiers get stationed in places where we have the appropriate providers and facilities to meet the health care needs of the family.

If you have gone through the EFMP screening process, I have complete faith we can take care of your wife at your new duty station.

Q. I served in Europe as a Soldier in the 1990s. I want to give blood to the Armed Forces Blood Supply, but those AFN commercials say I can't donate if I was stationed in Europe during those times because of Mad Cow disease.

Can I get screened to see if my blood is acceptable? I want to help and do my part. There might be thousands of potential donors like retirees, contractors or school teachers who can and would give blood to help out today's Soldiers.

Thanks, Giver in Grafenwoehr

A. Dear Giver,

As a health care provider, let me say thank you for your willingness to donate. Blood truly does save lives. Unfortunately, you are correct and are not eligible to donate. If you were in Europe for more than six months from January 1980 to December 1996 cumulatively, you are deferred from donating indefinitely to the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP).

Many seemingly minor things also have a mandatory waiting time of 12 months before donating. Some of these are getting a piercing, tattoo or receiving a smallpox vaccine. These restrictions may seem silly or overly harsh. The intent is not to punish you for serving overseas, but to protect the person receiving blood.

The blood program in the United States is run by a different organization and has different rules on who can and can't donate blood so if you ever move back, please check.

For information specific to the ASBP program, their Web site is www.militaryblood.dod.mil. You can find all of the restrictions on donating at their Web site. Thanks again for your service and willingness to help.

If you need a shot of advice, e-mail your question to brmc-pao@amedd.army.mil.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Costner plays Field House

Courtesy of the USO, Kevin Costner and his band "Modern Western" will perform at the Main Post Field House, March 20. Doors open at 7 p.m. The one-hour performance begins at 8 p.m., followed by an autograph session.

ESSO self-enforcement

Beginning March 22, AAFES will transition to self-enforcement policy for fuel sales Germany wide. The new policy will result in complete elimination of pre-fuel purchase checks of registration and Esso fuel cards prior to pumping.

The new self enforcement policy will streamline procedures to purchase fuel and will save customers time. Customers who exceed their tax free fuel ration amount will pay the taxed fuel rate for the amount of fuel that exceeds their rations.

Spring Arts & Crafts Fair

The Vilseck Community and Spouses Club invites you to the 1st annual Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, March 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Multipurpose Bldg. 134 on Rose Barracks. Get there early for best selection of handmade arts and crafts. Entry is free, but a donation of pet food or bedding is appreciated to aid the "VCSC Responsible Pet Ownership Campaign." For more, call CIV 01734-53-1837 or vcsconline.com.

Single Women's Day Out

The single women are heading to a mall in Erlangen, outside of Nuremberg for an American shopping experience, March 27, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet at the Vilseck chapel parking lot to carpool. Sign up with Laurel Hoyt at laurel.hoyt@cadencegeorg, CIV 015114-99-1395. The event is sponsored by the garrison Chaplain's Office.

HYPE performance group

HYPE, b-boy/krump/free verse performance group sponsored by the USAG-G Chaplain's Office, will be in town for school assemblies and community performances, free of charge, March 22 and 24. An assembly at VHS, March 22, will be followed by a performance at the Rose Barracks Chapel Fellowship Hall from 6-8 p.m. An assembly, March 24, at NMS will be followed by an afternoon performance at the Netzaberg Youth Center from 3-5 p.m. For more, contact Aretta Zitta, MCYB/Club Beyond, CIV 016098-76-9678 or azitta@clubbeyond.org.

2010 European PDI!

The American Society of Military

Comptrollers Heidelberg Chapter will host the 2010 European Professional Development Institute (PDI). The PDI will be held at the Dolce Hotel in Bad Nauheim, Germany, April 6-8. CDFM Testing will be available. This year's theme is "Getting in Touch With Cost Culture."

For more, visit ASMC Heidelberg Chapter's Web site at www.asmc-heidelberg.info.

Antique Club to Belgium

The Vilseck Community and Spouses Club invites you to experience the Tongeren, Belgium, Antique Flea Market. Bus departs Rose Barracks at 4:30 a.m., May 29 and returns May 30 at 10 p.m. Get additional details at www.vesconline.com. Sign up ASAP at Outdoor Rec in Graf or Vilseck before March 19.

Federal Voting Officers

A Federal Officer Voting workshop will be March 29, 10 a.m.-noon at the Multipurpose Center, Building 134, Rose Barracks, Vilseck. Topics include absentee voter registration, vote processing for U.S. citizens living and working overseas and ways to conduct a successful voting season. Attendance is open to everyone. For more, call DSN 475-8814/6768.

Winter weather watch

Stay informed on winter road conditions. MPs will monitor road conditions and the command will make winter safety decisions.

We will keep the community informed through AFN radio (98.5 FM or 1107 AM), the crawler on the command information channel, and our automated weather hot line available at DSN 475-7623 or CIV 09641-83-7623.

Celebrating diversity

Know someone in the JMTC community whose diverse talents and experiences make this a great place to live, work and train?

Nominate them to be a 2010 Excellence through Diversity Representative. Monthly selectees will share their stories and represent the command on AFN TV and radio, in the Bavarian News and JMTC promotional materials. For more, visit www.hqjmtc.army.mil.

Newcomer briefings

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr invites all newly arrived family members to attend the weekly community briefings every Wednesday morning.

The briefings include important information such as medical services, overseas banking options overseas, and legal assistance.

Briefings are from 8-11:30 a.m. No reservation is necessary. For more, call the Central Processing Facility at DSN 476-2101.

2010 European PDI!

The American Society of Military

Free performances by Leigh Jones

Learn the basics of the German language with Elementary German I, an introductory 3-credit course offered by University of Maryland University College Europe April 5 - May 13. Class is Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Deadline for registration is March 21. For more, call DSN 466-4106, CIV 09472-83-4106.

Learn German with UMUC

Girls enrolled in the spring softball season are not automatically registered for this clinic. To register, stop by Parent Central Services in Bldg. 10 or call DSN 466-2558, CIV 09472-83-2558.

Learn German with UMUC

Learn the basics of the German language with Elementary German I, an introductory 3-credit course offered by University of Maryland University College Europe April 5 - May 13. Class is Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Deadline for registration is March 21. For more, call DSN 466-4106, CIV 09472-83-4106.

Volleyball registration

Register your team for the upcoming Unit Level Volleyball program now through March 22. Practices will be held every Monday and Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more, call DSN 466-2883/2868, CIV 09472-83-2883/2868.

PAC Meeting

A Parent Advisory Council Meeting will be March 24, noon to 1 p.m. at the School Age Center, Bldg. 112. All CYSS patrons are invited to attend this meeting. For more, call DSN 466-2078, CIV 09472-83-2078.

National Prayer Breakfast

There will be a prayer breakfast March 24, 7 a.m. at the Warrior Sports Café, honoring our nation and its heroes.

Note: The Child Development Center provides free child care during the community briefings. To reserve space, call CIV 09662-83-2760.

GCSC Scholarship Drive

The 2010-2011 GCSC Scholarship Drive will run now through April 5. This is a tremendous financial opportunity for eligible military family members that have a desire to pursue a secondary education.

There are two types of scholarship packages available to the Grafenwoehr/Vilseck community. One package focuses on VHS/home schooled seniors while the other package is designed for family members such as dependents already pursuing a secondary education or spouses. Applications are available on-line at the GCSC Web site, www.gesconline.com.

For more, visit the GCSC Web site or contact George Linka, scholarship chairman, by e-mailing gescmembership@yahoo.com with "Attn: Scholarship" in the subject line.

Hohenfels Briefs

I.A.M. Strong Tour

The I. A.M. Strong Tour featuring up and coming pop/RB singer Leigh Jones will be at Hohenfels March 20. A meet and greet, free and open to the public, will be at the Warrior Sports Café, 11:30 a.m. to noon. The free concert will take place at the Zone, 7-9 p.m. For more, contact your unit BOSS representative or call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Snowshoe night hike

Explore the snowy Bavarian Forest near the Dreisesselberg. This hike is suitable for children 7 and up and adults of all ages. Bus will depart from Hohenfels Outdoor Recreation March 20, 4:30 p.m. and will return at midnight.

Cost is \$80 per person and includes transportation, equipment and tour. Seating is limited to the first 14 customers. Call to reserve, DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Czech it out in Prague

Join ITR for a day of adventure to one of Europe's most mesmerizing cities. Bus will depart Hohenfels March 20 from ODR, Bldg. H15, 5 a.m. and return to Hohenfels around 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. Call to reserve your seats today, DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Softball clinic

A preseason softball clinic March 20-21 is open to all girls ages 10-18 to prepare for the upcoming season. Bring along a water bottle, tennis shoes, a softball glove, lunch money or a sack lunch.

Girls enrolled in the spring softball season are not automatically registered for this clinic. To register, stop by Parent Central Services in Bldg. 10 or call DSN 466-2558, CIV 09472-83-2558.

Learn German with UMUC

Learn the basics of the German language with Elementary German I, an introductory 3-credit course offered by University of Maryland University College Europe April 5 - May 13. Class is Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Deadline for registration is March 21. For more, call DSN 466-4106, CIV 09472-83-4106.

Volleyball registration

Register your team for the upcoming Unit Level Volleyball program now through March 22. Practices will be held every Monday and Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more, call DSN 466-2883/2868, CIV 09472-83-2883/2868.

PAC Meeting

A Parent Advisory Council Meeting will be March 24, noon to 1 p.m. at the School Age Center, Bldg. 112. All CYSS patrons are invited to attend this meeting. For more, call DSN 466-2078, CIV 09472-83-2078.

National Prayer Breakfast

There will be a prayer breakfast March 24, 7 a.m. at the Warrior Sports Café, honoring our nation and its heroes.

Guest speaker will be Col. John

Spiszer, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander.

Sport Bike Rider Course

The USAG Hohenfels Safety Office will hold a Military Sport Bike Rider Course March 25, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The course consists of approximately three hours of classroom interactive lessons and approximately four hours of on-cycle range time. For more, call DSN 466-2865, CIV 09472-83-2865.

Single Soldiers ski trip

Take a trip with BOSS to Reit im Winkl March 26 for a day of skiing and snowboarding. Participants must be fitted for equipment by March 25. Free transportation and \$15 for your equipment rental. Bus will depart from Hohenfels Outdoor Recreation, 5:30 a.m., arrive at 5 a.m. to get equipment. Bus will return to Hohenfels between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Other MWR patrons are welcome to attend at a cost of \$25 to cover bus fee. Single Soldiers have first priority.

To sign up and pay, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Teen Pizza and Movie Night

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to movie night March 26, 6:30-11 p.m. at the Youth Center, Bldg. 72. Entry fee is \$3. For more, call DSN 466-4492, CIV 09472-83-4492.

Ski trip to Reit im Winkl

Enjoy a one-day trip offering alpine and cross country skiing, hiking and more. The bus will depart March 27 from Hohenfels Outdoor Recreation, 5:30 a.m. and will return at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under. Discounts are offered to groups of five or more and for those with season rentals. Seating is limited to the first 14 customers. For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Vienna, Austria trip

Explore the beautiful city of Vienna in one day with ITR. Bus will depart Hohenfels from ODR, Bldg. H15, March 27, 4:30 a.m. and return to Hohenfels at approximately 9 p.m. Cost is \$70 per person. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. Call to reserve your seats today, DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Aerobathon

Sports & Fitness will conduct a Spring Aerobathon beginning at 9:30 a.m. March 27. Start your weekend off right with a morning of fun-filled fitness classes including Spinning, Zumba, Yoga and more. Entry fee is \$10 per participant. The first 20 people to register will get a free T-shirt.

For more, stop by the Post Gym,

Bldg. 88, or call DSN 466-2883/2726, CIV 09472-83-2883/2726.

Gamers Day

All library patrons are invited to this video gaming event March 27, 4-6 p.m. at the library. For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

The Eclectic Book Club

This book group for ages 18 and older meets the last Monday of each month, 5-6 p.m. We will meet March 29 to discuss the March book, "The Coral Thief" by Rebecca Stott. For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

Racquetball tournament

Players of all skill levels are encouraged to participate in the tournament March 29 to April 9 at the Post Gym, Bldg. 88. The entry fee is \$10 per person; space is limited to the first 16 players to register. For more, call DSN 466-2883/2868, CIV 09472-83-2883/2868.

Community blood drive

There will be a Hohenfels Community Blood drive sponsored by the Hohenfels Health Clinic April 6 at the Hohenfels Community Activity Center, Bldg. 40, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All blood collected stays in our military community. For more, check out www.militaryblood.dod.mil or call 1st Lt. Samuel Ochinang at DSN 466-3603, CIV 09472-83-3603. To make an appointment to donate visit www.militarydonor.com.

Garmisch Briefs

Garmisch FMWR Trips

Unless noted, all events meet at the Pete Burke Center. For more on any of these FMWR trips, contact the Garmisch Outdoor Recreation Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

Erdinger Therme

Water is extremely therapeutic, relaxing, calming, exhilarating, and lots of good fun at the Erdinger Therme March 20. Sign up as soon as possible. Cost is \$15 plus €23 for entrance into the Therme.

Schloss Neuschwanstein

Visit the most popular tourist attraction in Germany, March 21, along with the castle town of Fussen, the Wieskirche and Ettal Monastery. Meet at 8 a.m. Cost is \$39.

Othello

Enjoy the experience of letting William Shakespeare batter your mind with

USAG Grafenwoehr

Community Spotlight

What's Happening

Garmisch (continued)

ideas April 7 with a 50-minute, non-intimidating talk on one of the greatest of the Bard's plays. This is the equivalent of a college lecture at any major university only without a paper due. Then watch the much-acclaimed version of the play starring Laurence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh. Cost is \$5.

Third Reich Munich

First see a video presentation and a geographical and historical orientation in the Pete Burke Center, April 9, at 7 p.m. Then April 11, we catch the 8 a.m. train to Munich, recreate the Bier Hall Putsch as it happened in 1923, have lunch, and visit the site of the Munich Accords. Cost is \$35.

Pool and Gorge

Visit the Partnachklamm April 10. One of the most beautiful natural attractions in Germany. Hear about the 1936 Olympics in Garmisch at the ski jumping stadium, and then finish the day at the Alpspitze Wellenbad, the town's largest swimming pool. Cost is \$22.

Brewery of the Month

Visit a monastery brewery in Weltenburg April 24, the oldest operating brewery in the world. With its modern equipment the brewery is not only a technical jewel – but, with its Jurassic spring water and an ancient brewing recipe following the Benedictine tradition – these elements, combined in a perfect production process, emphasize the outstanding quality of this 2008 World Cup Gold medal winning beer. Cost is \$39.

Venice

April 23-25: View great art and architecture, the pigeons in St. Mark's Square, gondolas, good places to eat, and more. In addition, we tour Verona, the Romeo and Juliet city with the great Roman Arena and a wonderful restaurant.

Cost is \$290 plus €100-200 to cover museum entrances, food, public transportation and souvenirs.

Munich music

April 13: Beethoven and Brahms symphony. Tickets prices for concerts or operas range from €5-100.

FMWR always runs a bus to the performance for the cost of \$12, and available seats are reserved first-come, first served, for those who want to spend an evening in Munich.

Ansbach Briefs

Attend RAD

USAG Ansbach hosts a Retiree Appreciation Day, April 17 at the Katterbach Gymnasium from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The guest speaker will be retired Col. Robert Mentell, president, Army in Europe, RC.

The RAD is designed with you in mind, and is a great source for the latest information for retirees and family members in your area; and it provides an opportunity to renew acquaintances, listen to guest speakers, get medical check-ups and various other services.

For more, contact the retirement services officer at DSN 467-3301, CIV 09802-83-3301.

Home Schooling

There will be a home-school support group meeting at the Bleidorn library, at 3 p.m., April 8. If you are homeschooled or are interested in homeschooling, you are strongly encouraged to come and meet fellow home-school families and come up with ideas for activities and future meeting dates and times.

For more information, contact the Ansbach school liaison officer at DSN 467-2098, CIV 09802-83-2098.

Attend concert

The German Army Band Heeresmusikkorps 12 from Veitshöchheim gives a charity concert at the Kongress & Kultur Centrum (KKC) in Bad Windsheim, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the KKC Bad Windsheim, the Sparkasse in Ipsheim or Neustadt/Aisch and prices range from 10 euros for children/students to 15 euros for adults. Beneficiaries are the local elementary school and the Bundeswehr's department of social works.

For more, call 09841/5397.

Why Do Fools Fall in Love

Come join the Ansbach community as they find out why fools fall in love. Performances of the 1960s pop musical will be at 7:30 p.m. on March 26, 27, 28 and April 2, 3, 4 at the Terrace Playhouse Annex (Building 5258) on Barton Barracks. Cost of the performance is \$9 for adults, \$7 for students and \$20 per family.

Easter Egg Hunts

The children of the Ansbach Military Community will be searching for Easter Eggs on April 3. The hunt will begin at 10 a.m. on Stork Barracks and the

search begins on Katterbach Kaserne 12 p.m. For more, contact Youth Services at the respective installations.

Deep Sea Fishing Trip

Come try to catch a big one with the USAG Ansbach Outdoor Recreation Center from April 8-11. The ODR office has planned a deep sea fishing trip to Ostsee. For more, contact the ODR at DSN 467-3225.

Skill on the hill

Take your time or go for speed while skiing or snowboarding on the Zugspitze. The USAG Ansbach Outdoor Recreation Center is planning a one day trip to the Alps. Cost is \$45 per person, contact the Outdoor Recreation Center at DSN 467-3225 for more information.

Oriental dance

SKIES Unlimited offers a class in traditional Oriental dance. Also known as "belly dancing" in the west, it is a path to physical fitness and great body awareness. The ultimate dance workout allows you to discover and appreciate your individual beauty. Cost for the class is \$40 for a month, for ages 11 and up. Classes are at the Von Steuben on Bismarck Kaserne every Wednesday from 5:30 until 6:15 p.m. Call Central Enrollment Registration Office at 09802-83-2533 or DSN 467-2533 to sign up.

Wall climbing classes

Does the weather make you feel like climbing the walls? Sign up for the EDGE wall climbing classes held on March 22 and 29 at the Stork Physical Fitness Center. Meet at the Katterbach Teen Center at 3:30 p.m. and return to the Katterbach Teen Center at 7 p.m. Classes are free for those in grades 6-12. Call Central Enrollment Registration Office at 09802-83-2533 or DSN 467-2533 to sign up.

Military Saves

Need a nest egg? Stop in your local ACS for more on this annual awareness month.

Schweinfurt Briefs

St. Patty's Day at Irish Pub

Come out to the Irish Pub on Conn Barracks March 17, from 7 p.m.-midnight to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Enjoy green beer and free munchies.

For more, call DSN 354-6186, CIV 09721-96-6186.

Food Handlers Class

Take the food handlers class, March 18, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Yellow Ribbon Room. It is a requirement if you are serving prepared foods to the public. Space is limited.

For more, call DSN 476-2041/2138, CIV 09662-83-2041/2138.

Auto Skills Classes

The Auto Skills Center offers fundamental classes on various topics. Learn about drum brakes, March 18, or join the class "Tires defined" April 1, each from 7-8 p.m. All classes are free and open to all ID cardholders. For more, call DSN 353-8224, CIV 09721-96-8224.

Leigh Jones in Concert

The I.A.M. Strong Concert Tour presents recording artist Leigh Jones, March 18, at the Conn Community Conference Center starting at 7 p.m. The free performance is open to all ID cardholders.

For more, call DSN 354-6762, CIV 09721-96-6762.

Soccer registration deadlines

The unit-level soccer season is right around the corner. Register now until March 19 for the season beginning March 29. All military service members are welcome to participate. To register, contact Finney Fitness Center. For more, call DSN 353-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

CYSS Super Saturday

Register with CYSS Central Registration until March 20 for the next Super Saturday, March 27. Participating children must have current CYSS registration and immunizations at time of reservation.

For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

Video Game Tournaments

The EDGE invites all kids grades six to eight to participate in their free video game tournaments. The tournaments are held in conjunction with CYSS every Wednesday in March at the Ledward Library from 3:30-5 p.m. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

Elementary PTA crafts show

Visit the Schweinfurt Elementary PTA crafts show, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Crafters can purchase a full table for \$20 and half for \$10 for selling handmade wares. For more, call CIV 0972-18-1893.

Egg Psyanky Craft Saturday

The Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) invite you to participate in their Egg Psyanky Craft Saturday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Ledward Barracks. Participation is free and Materials and Instruction will be provided. For more, email Schweinfurt@pwoc.org

Weight loss support group

The WIC program offers a new weight loss support group meeting every second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. and every fourth Tuesday at noon at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Ledward Barracks.

The next meeting will be held March 23 at noon. This support group is open to all ID cardholders ages 12 and above and WIC membership is not required. So come on out, participate, pick up valuable info and receive answers to your questions. For more details, call DSN 354-96-6791, CIV 09721-96-6791.

G.U.T.S. Program

The Giving Understanding to Teens in Schweinfurt Program meets March 23 at Schweinfurt Middle School at 8 a.m. and invites all middle school and high school youth to attend. For more, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

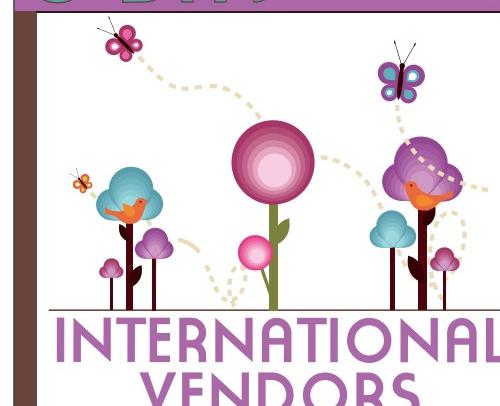
Library Book Club

The Ledward Library invites you to the next meeting of their adult book club, March 24, beginning at 5:15 p.m. The book title is The Help by Kathryn Stockett. Coffee, tea, and treats will be served. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

Schweinfurt Singer show

With the month of March designated as "Music In Our Schools Month," the

2010 Schweinfurt Community & Spouses' Club SPRING BAZAAR 3 DAY EXTRAVAGANZA



Friday

March 26
Ribbon Cutting: 10 a.m.
Shopping: 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday

March 27: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday

March 28: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



FINNEY FITNESS CENTER
BLDG. 64, CONN BARRACKS
09721-96-8234 / DSN 353-8234

elementary chorus, the "Schweinfurt Singer", performs March 25 at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The theme of the free concert will be "A Tribute to Music." For details, call 09721-81893.

Socialize at the Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town? The Army Community Service's monthly Lunch Bunch is the perfect fit. Join Schweinfurt's Lunch Bunch, March 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Experience a little of the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome. Bring euro for lunch. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

BOSS events

The award-winning Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers numerous programs monthly. Join them every Tuesday for a movie night at 6 p.m. or every Thursday at 6 p.m. for tournament night. The next BOSS Meet and Greet takes place March 25 at 1 p.m. and the next BOSS bowling night at Kessler Field, at 7 p.m., March 30.

All single Soldiers are invited to attend, all held at the Finney Recreation Center (except for bowling night). For a complete list of upcoming events, call DSN 353-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

Treasurer training

Find out the responsibilities of being a treasurer at Army Community Service's class "Treasurer training" at the Yellow Ribbon Room, March 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Learn how to run a ledger, a monthly report of funds, and more. Call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

Softball/Baseball registration

Child, Youth, and School Services invites kids age three to 18 to participate in the upcoming Softball/Baseball season. Register now through March 26 at CYSS Central Registration on Ledward Barracks, Bldg 224. Participants must have current CYSS Services Registration and sports physical. For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

Easter Market Trip

The Ledward Crafts Studio offers a trip to the Easter Market at Mardorf in Hessen, March 28. Transportation is provided departing the crafts studio at 8 a.m. and returning at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5. For more, call DSN 354-6903, CIV 09721-96-6903.

Schwarzwald



Left: Like a ribbon of water, this thin waterfall in Todtnau traipses down the hillside.

Top: The Schwarzwald, or Black Forest, has three distinctive features highlands, waterfalls and woods.

Second from top: Pastoral homes are nestled between the flowing hills of the Black Forest.

Second from bottom: Lake Titisee, a popular location for outings, is two kilometers long and 700 meters wide, making it the largest natural lake in the Black Forest. There are walking paths and visitors can fish, windsurf, sail or go boating.

Bottom: A horse-drawn buggy takes tourists around the woods and through storybook scenic villages.

Finding comfort and relaxation in Germany's Black Forest

Story and photos by
SARAH FERGUSON
Special to the Bavarian News

Contrary to popular belief, the Black Forest is not black, though it is a forest, and a gorgeous one at that. It is as if someone took different shades of green crayons and blended them into a landscape. The hills roll by, water splashes against the rocks, and just when you think the heat will get the best of you, towering trees protect with pleasant shade.

Though warm sun might be a difficult concept to imagine now that winter is here, travelers can begin planning for summer trips now; a little positive attitude can go a long way.

On Fourth of July weekend my family ventured to the Black Forest.

My younger brother Joshua was pleasantly

surprised by the waterfalls and scenery, and also commented on the warm welcome extended by the locals in the area. The family road trip went from grey streets of the autobahn to the deep, green forest that soon engulfed the view.

Up a hill, through the woods and into a town we went before stopping at a guest house. Standing on the elevated platform of the parking lot, we looked over Titisee Lake. From the rented apartment (up another hill), we took in a view of the lake that reflected the forest, making the lake look green.

In Todtnau, like so many of the other areas in the forest, the slow, rolling hills seemed to last forever. On the path to the waterfall visitors rode bikes, ran or just leisurely walked up the hill.

We reached the bottom of the forest, where water rolled off the rocks into a stream, and

took the steps leading up the side of the falls. Just like the hills, these steps moved with the land, not through it, and the uneven twisting and turning steps climbed higher until we reached a small bridge. To our right, the waterfall slammed down on the rocks.

In addition to the scenery, the Black Forest also has a variety of activities and places to visit. At the Glasblaeserhof, or glass blowing house, we watched from just four to five feet away as a man heated, colored, blew and viola! – made a glass bowl right before our very eyes. We rode on a horse-drawn buggy through the town and woods, taking in the scenery at a slower pace. You can also rent paddle boats and camp on one side of the lake.

Despite being thousands of miles from America, the evening on the Fourth of July consisted of fireworks as the weekend coincided with the town's annual fest. The

main area was filled with games and booths with the traditional Bollenhat hat, and food and beverage stands. The weather was perfect – a clear evening sky with a light, cool breeze.

Our family took a pleasure boat out into the middle of the lake. As fireworks filled the night sky, for a brief moment you could see another person's face glow with light and then fade back into the dark. Oohs and ahhs followed the most spectacular fireworks, with the occasional jump or two from the surprise crack of an unexpected firework.

As the last fireworks fizzled in the sky, so, too, did our weekend in the Black Forest. And like the slow rolling hills, warm sun and calming breeze, the trip was a perfect balance of family and nature.

Editor's Note: Sarah Ferguson is a senior at Ansbach High School. She plans to attend Hampton University in the fall.

Forum offers avenue to affect change in services

Story and photo by
NATHAN VAN SCHAIK
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Officials from Schweinfurt's directorate of logistics hosted the quarterly DeCA/AAFES forum at the garrison commander's conference room, March 2. The forum, which was open to the public, provided the opportunity for both Soldiers and the general public to voice their concerns regarding services provided by the commissary, AAFES and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities.

In attendance were Deputy Commander Glenn Wait, and representatives from AAFES, FMWR and various tenant units. Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) representatives could not attend.

In past meetings, the forum has provided a democratizing effect on community services by projecting the voices of the public within listening range of AAFES and commissary management staff. That sentiment is summed up in the words of Tim Neal, AAFES store manager.

"You commented. We listened. We're working it," he said.

That Soldiers and community members can affect real change at the forum is evidenced by the noticeable improvements since the last gathering in November. The request to man more cash registers at the Post Exchange, for example, has since come to fruition.

"One of the things we've done since the last meeting is that I've hired additional cashiers," Neal said. "This is the most cashiers we've had in the AAFES stores in the two years I've been here."

Soldiers can also expect to see a sign designating one register to Soldiers in uniform during lunchtime, he added.

Neal, who fielded the majority of questions and concerns, took the opportunity to canvass issues as well as



Schweinfurt community members meet with members of the commissary, AAFES and FMWR management teams, as well, as the garrison deputy commander as part of a recent open community forum. "You commented. We listened. We're working it," said Tim Neal, AAFES store manager.

showcase some of AAFES' improved services and future projects tailored to provide convenience to the community.

"Another thing we do offer in the community that people are unaware of is the shuttle program. What that is, is it gives you the opportunity to go to one of the larger stores and see a bulk item that you like. You don't have to come here to rent a vehicle to pick it up. You can now request it through your store manager and come pick it up here."

AAFES stores are shifting stocking procedures that take into consideration the fluctuations in population, an ever-present concern for any Schweinfurt store manager. New methods in efficiency will better forecast what the needs will be.

"We've gone to a new ordering system," Neal said. "Currently, it's only at the main stores but it will take a lot of the ordering out of the facility, sort of like a system Wal-Mart uses.

So we should, in theory, see a better in-stock percentage, less holes in the facility, and more merchandise coming in in a timely manner."

One prospect on the AAFES agenda, according to Neal, is to work in partnership with the garrison's car rental agency, Enterprise.

"I want to talk to (Enterprise) about maybe getting a van or a truck and allowing you guys to rent that for a day or a half-day. This will allow you to save on delivery services."

One hot issue voiced at the forum concerned the barber shop being closed on Sundays.

The issue is rooted in German labor law, which prohibits the service on Sunday, and any change to the current hours is close to nil, according to Petra Poell, AAFES services supervisor.

Services contracted out by AAFES, which include the barber shop, beauty shop, laundry and dry cleaning,

flower shop, Subway, Pizza Hut and optical shop, fall under the German stipulations. AAFES direct services, on the other hand, do not. The only facilities in Schweinfurt that are AAFES direct are the PX, PXtra, shoppettes, MCSS, Popeye's, Burger King and Taco Bell, according to Neal.

Neal also hinted at the future possibility of breaking contracts with the service provider, TKS.

"We're hoping by the end of April and by the beginning of May, you're going to be able to cancel your contract. No matter what. Now, this is only on base."

Questions and concerns geared toward FMWR Director Michael Duday were focused on extending the opening hours of the Auto Skills Center, particularly on weekends and training holidays.

"It is possible to extend hours, but you'd have to cut hours somewhere else," Duday said. Army standards regulate MWR facility hours for the sake of creating consistency Armywide.

"What we have to have is consistency. I need to hear many, many voices that say 'I'd like to be open an extra hour on Saturday, but am willing to close an hour early on Friday.'"

Community members can contact the Schweinfurt Auto Skills Center at DSN 353-8224, CIV 09721-96-8224, to voice their opinions on the matter.

"The other thing that everyone has to keep in mind is that, unfortunately, Army MWR worldwide took about a 25 percent budget reduction," Duday said.

No commissary representative was present, but issues were addressed and recorded. Issues included the new shopping cart policy, which states that shopping carts will not be allowed to leave the parking lot area, customer service and how best to direct customer complaints.

The next meeting will be in June. Community members are encouraged to attend.

FORUM HOT TOPICS:

AAFES Price comparisons

From oil changes to electronic equipment, AAFES will match any price in the economy. Price comparison policies do not apply to online merchandise.

AAFES improves efficiency

In addition to a new ordering system modeled after a Wal-Mart style procedure, the store manager hired more cashiers.

PX video game selection

From AAFES headquarters in Dallas, Texas, selections are allotted to stores based on a store's revenue. A larger store, say Grafenwoehr, will be allotted a larger selection while Schweinfurt, a basic store, will be provided a more limited selection. To purchase and receive a game in less than five days, go to www.aafes.com and order through the specialty store, Gamezone.

AAFES fuel policy

A new policy goes into effect, March 22, that eliminates Esso fuel card checks prior to pumping.

Barber shop

German labor law prohibits the service on Sunday. Also, the barber shop will take no more appointments.

Differences between AAFES and commissary prices

According to the AAFES store manager, the commissary operates through the military, which is why many of their prices may be cheaper. The commissary has no operating charges while AAFES, a nonappropriated fund, must assume such charges as shipping and transportation.

Commissary shopping cart policy

The new policy went into effect March 1. View it at www.schweinfurt.army.mil/Garrison/policies/Commissary_Shopping_Carts.pdf

Commissary complaints

To voice your concerns, first speak with a manager. If you're not satisfied, fill out a customer comment card on location or go to http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=138.

15th Engineer Battalion inaugurates training site



Lt. Col. David Hurley, commander, 15th Engineer Battalion, addresses a crowd at the Ogaard Mobility Operations on Urban Terrain site, March 4, at the Victory Training Center in Schweinfurt. "I think it's a win-win-win situation," Hurley said. "Our Soldiers got the hands-on training, the garrison got a project completed with very little cost."

Story and photo by
EVA BERGMANN
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

After one year of work, the 902nd Company of the 15th Engineer Battalion completed the construction of the Ogaard Mobility Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) site at the Victory Training Center, March 4. The new MOUT training area is the first of its kind for the Schweinfurt Garrison and will allow many units to train and perfect their skills.

"I think it's a win-win-win situation," said Lt. Col. David Hurley, highlighting the mutual benefits of the MOUT site project. "Our Soldiers got the hands-on training, the garrison got a project completed with very little cost and the training units here have a much better training facility that they can come out and use to improve their skills."

The ability to train in and around buildings is critical to mission success in today's fight, according to Capt. Jennifer Gonser.

In his speech, 1st Lt. Joseph Caperna, the officer in charge of the project, described how in the absence of expedient software, platoon members' being unfamiliar with the building material and the lack or delay of specific tools complicated the mission. The weather also delayed the project.

"These impassable road conditions didn't stop the squad leaders, who used every available opportunity to prefabricate stair, railings and walls in the motor pool while they waited for a break in the weather," explained Caperna.

Knut Ogaard, former chief of Installation Branch and master planner of the MOUT site project, and for whom the site was named, spoke about the project's setting.

"Now the units here in Schweinfurt and everywhere can use it (the MOUT site) for training. It is an awesome opportunity for

everyone and we got real hands-on training for our engineers," he said.

Ogaard was working on another global MOUT site when he first saw this terrain and had the idea of making it come to life. Twelve garages, which were no longer in use, were moved from Wuerzburg to the Schweinfurt training area and remodeled – all of which cost only 70,000 dollars.

"I told the Soldiers, 'A lot of you guys have been downrange already. You take your experience and what you saw and you integrate that ... You guys develop the project and add to it, what you feel makes it more realistic, so that new Soldiers have a better chance at not being surprised when they go downrange,'" said Ogaard.

"I'm actually a 21 Romeo, that's an interior electrician," said Spc. Travis Clarke about his first experience with masonry work in the Army. "For me, the best part about this project was that I got to learn a (Military Occupational Specialty) outside of mine. The people I worked with were great and that made it a lot easier."

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Carpenter said the project is even more remarkable considering the interruptions caused by other assignments the unit worked on, training requirements and personnel changes within the battalion. He also stressed that the unit seized every opportunity it had to work on the MOUT training facility.

"It took a lot of cooperation between us and the garrison, especially DPW and this being one of our very first projects as a new unit with very inexperienced Soldiers," said Hurley. "It took a leap of faith on the garrison side and on our side to commit to something like this."

"But we made a commitment to it and we were successful. So it's a mutual benefit to our soldiers and the garrison. It's been a long time in coming but a lot of lessons learned and a lot of training accomplished and now we took it to the finish line."

Schweinfurt focuses on women in history throughout March

Story and photos by
YULANDA REYNOLDS
USAG Schweinfurt Federal Women's Program

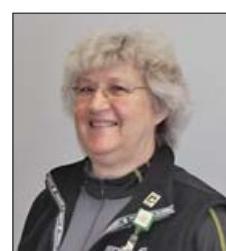
In honor of national Women's History Month in March, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt proudly takes the opportunity to recognize and honor women who are valuable members of our community.

Rita Frick

Born in Waigolshausen, Germany, about 15 kilometers from Schweinfurt, Rita Frick began working for the U.S. government at the Officer's Club in September 1970. She well remembers many units that have been



Frick



Dietrich

stationed in Schweinfurt over the past 40 years.

After having spent 30 years at the Officer's Club, encountering individuals such as retired

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, who spent time in Schweinfurt as commander of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and Lt. Gen. Russell Honore, who was here first as a second lieutenant and then as brigadier general, Frick moved on to become a valued employee and team member at the Education Center, where she worked for nine years. Today, she is an important member of the Schweinfurt community and works at the Bradley Inn.

Jenny Dietrich

Jenny Dietrich moved to Germany after receiving orders to establish the Women, Infants and Children program overseas. She set up the WIC office in Baumholder in January 2001,

and moved to Schweinfurt in September, where she set up Schweinfurt's WIC program and was tasked to establish WIC offices at other locations throughout Europe.

During her military career, Dietrich rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel with the Medical Corps at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Dietrich retired from the military in 2005, and is an active member of the European Retiree Council where she serves as the Schweinfurt representative. Dietrich is one of only two women currently serving on the board. Now serving as the regional manager of WIC Overseas, Dietrich has been working overseas longer than any other WIC employee.

Elementary school ushers in reading week

Story and photo by

NATHAN VAN SCHAIK
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Teachers, students and their families packed classrooms to celebrate Dr. Seuss night at the Schweinfurt Elementary School, March 1. The event launched the beginning of the Read Across America Week at the school.

"The purpose of the event was to create an opportunity for families to interact with their children at school in a variety of fun activities," said LaVonne Ector, an elementary school reading specialist and a member of the school's reading committee who helped organize the event.

Events included book readings, trivia games, crafts and Web presentations from www.seussville.com. Topping the evening was a skit hosted by Story Man and first-grade teacher Jack Woodfork.

The evening was part of a larger project initiated by the reading committee aimed at sparking students' interest in reading while engaging parents in their children's classroom setting.

"Monday night's event was a kick-off to a week called Read Across America, which is celebrated throughout schools in the U.S.," said Sharon Rakestraw, a reading specialist and reading committee member. "During this week, teachers plan various activities, most of which are centered around Dr. Seuss."

Read Across America is the National Education Association's annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading, according to the NEA's Web site.

March 2 is chosen as a target date to kick off the program because it is the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.

The event's success was evidenced by the roughly 200 students, parents and family members in attendance. Parents expressed satisfaction with the success of the organizers' aim while students pointed out the variation in activities.

"She loves to read and this [Dr. Seuss night] definitely adds to her being more involved with reading," said Veronica Bradshaw of her daughter Aaralyn.

When asked if she would change anything to make the event better, fourth-grader Savannah had this much to say: "Nothing."

Savannah, who participated in the Reader's Theater plays during the evening and whose skills signaled emerging talent in performing arts, added, "I liked it the way it was. I like events where you use your voice."

"I liked it too," said her mother, Sarah Young, an Army wife. "Kids got to choose from a variety of activities."

Beyond the storytelling, theater, games and crafts, students and their families were also provided a demonstration incorporating Web sites



Elementary school teacher Carrie Knight reads a Seuss favorite to students and family members. Teachers, students and their families packed classrooms to celebrate Dr. Seuss night, March 1. The event launched the beginning of the Read Across America week at the school.

into the school's reading programs. The demonstration came as part of the school's continued effort to incorporate cutting-edge technology into the classroom curriculum.

For the remainder of the week students participated in other spirited activities drawing focus to both the importance and fun that can be found in reading.

Parents who would like to get involved with similar events can contact the Schweinfurt's Parent Teacher Association by e-mailing pta-schw-es@eu.dodea.edu.

JROTC cadets qualify for leadership symposium

by EMILY ATHENS

USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

The Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or JROTC, is a program aimed at developing the nation's youth by instilling values of citizenship, service and responsibility, according to the Army JROTC Web site.

Local cadets of the JROTC program at Bamberg Middle High School have worked hard to emulate these characteristics and just recently, their efforts were recognized, as they solidified a spot in the JROTC Leadership Team and Academic Bowl (JLAB), an annual George C. Marshall leadership symposium.

Five cadet leaders from BMHS, three of them Schweinfurt community members, will head to George Mason University in Washington for the conference in June.

The Schweinfurt-based students who will attend are 10th-graders Cadet/Sgt. Lauren Moyer and Cadet/Staff Sgt. Brice Burchett; and 11th-grader Cadet/1st Lt. Alexis Jennings.

"We are the 15th Army JROTC Battalion, under 2nd Brigade. Our brigade got to send four teams, one from each of four divisions. We won first place for all Division II schools, made up of DoDDs-Europe JROTC programs and all programs in the northeast of the U.S. from New Jersey to Maine," said retired Maj. Madonna Roberts, senior Army instructor for the JROTC program at BMHS. Roberts said this is the first year Bamberg has earned a spot.

Roberts explained that 48 teams get to attend the conference out of the thousands who competed from JROTC programs all around the world.

"There are two different tests the students take to qualify. Most are online. After the first test, the top 50 percent make it to the second round. Our students scored an 89 percent during the second round to win the slot at JLAB," Roberts said.

The five-day symposium will integrate a series of leadership sessions, round table discussions and student presentations.

"At the end, students may be divided into platoons and present on the George C. Marshall leadership principles. It's so impressive



Courtesy photo

From left, 11th-grader Cadet/1st Lt. Alexis Jennings, and 10th-graders Cadet/Staff Sgt. Brice Burchett and Cadet/Sgt. Lauren Moyer of the Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Bamberg Middle High School, work on their presentation skills. All three cadets will head to the JROTC Leadership Team and Academic Bowl in June, which is an annual George C. Marshall leadership symposium.

and gives them hands-on learning, relating leadership skills to real life situations," Roberts added.

The intent of the conference is for students to leave with an enhanced understanding of the leadership, selfless service and character that Gen. Marshall embraced, and according to Roberts,

it aims to support and reflect the common mission of all JROTC programs, which is to "to motivate young people to be better citizens."

"Our leadership team competed against teams from 2,300 JROTC programs to win selection to attend the symposium. ... and I was especially impressed by the dedication of our Schweinfurt students who stayed after school to study and managed to stay on top of their normal homework assignments despite their late arrival home," Roberts said.

As these Schweinfurt cadets look forward to many great things to come, they credit their positive experiences to their decision to join JROTC.

"I joined JROTC to become a better leader with good character. JROTC is teaching me self-discipline that helps me reach that goal. When I heard we (the leadership team) were going to D.C., that boosted my confidence," Moyer said, who performs publicity operations as the battalion's S-5.

"I earned friendship and respect from everyone and every day I look forward to helping someone out," Jennings added, who now serves as personnel officer, or battalion S-1.

When the cadets aren't prepping for a leadership conference, the battalion, made up of 70 student cadets, executes tasks modeling an active duty Army battalion, assigning students to positions of a battalion commander, a command sergeant major, executive officer, staff and so on.

The cadets perform monthly activities to include awards promotion ceremonies, platoon drill team practice, staff briefings, volunteer work, color guard performances and much more. Last year, their program was awarded the Honor Unit with Distinction Rating and Gold Star award, which is the highest recognition possible for JROTC programs, and the first time in Bamberg's JROTC 28-year history to receive the distinction.

"The JROTC curriculum is so pro-future. We really work on academics with our cadets and promote hard work. ... I'm extremely proud of these cadets," Roberts said.

"It's been a very rewarding experience that has taught me more than just to march. It completely changed my life," Burchett said.

Operation 'Clean Sweep' creates unity in Schweinfurt

Story and photo by

NATHAN VAN SCHAIK
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

The sheet of snow that blanketed the greater Schweinfurt area, March 6, did not stop an elite volunteer force of over 40 strong from participating in what's come to be known at Askren Manor as Operation Clean Sweep.

Deputy Commander Glenn Wait filled the shoes of Schweinfurt Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Everett Spain who, for the first time, couldn't attend the event.

"The intent is to get the community to buy into taking care of the place where you live," Wait said. "This is our community."

The event drew volunteers from locations outside the government housing area stood as a testament that people deem the project important.

"A lot of the folks here don't even live on Askren. This shows that people who don't even live here still consider this our home," Wait said.

Operation Clean Sweep brings community members together on a monthly basis and promotes a clean environment for those living in the Schweinfurt military community.

What initially started as a small group of volunteers picking up trash and returning commissary shopping carts in October 2009 has blossomed into a well-oiled volunteer trash-collection machine, one with many moving parts.

Prior to commencement, volunteers first convene to review a color-coded map of the Askren grounds. Schweinfurt's Directorate of Public Works provides the gloves, trash bags and trucks in addition to its extra manpower. Event organizers then split up volunteers into different teams and dispatch them accordingly. Teams comb the area for trash, bag it, and deposit it roadside.

Next, Brad Posey, Separate or Recycle Trash (SORT) Program manager and Freecycle Center organizer, orchestrates disposal operations. His team of DPW truck drivers transports the bagged

trash to the recycle center, where another team of volunteers is on stand-by to separate the material collected. Posey's Freecycle crew is also on hand to extract any usable materials that can be donated for reuse at his center.

The goal of building team unity within the Schweinfurt community, coupled with the need to tackle the litterbug problem head-on have both been mobilizing factors in the operation.

What's more, the project has become a haven whereby community members of all ages and rank coalesce to beautify the Askren grounds. More and more volunteers from various tenant units, families, garrison facilities and civilian contractors have joined the force since its initiation.

"The last time we were out here, people were standing outside and they came and joined us," said Staff Sgt. Isilee Dozier of the 44th Signal Battalion, a volunteer and Askren Manor tenant. Dozier also recruited her friend, Staff Sgt. Rhonda Harris, also of the 44th Signal Battalion,

who was on scene.

The project does not discriminate against rank, age or position.

"This is not military style, this is all volunteers," reiterated Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright of the 15th Engineer Battalion, one of the event organizers.

The event also draws attention to the litter and preventable waste on Askren grounds.

"This is definitely a problem," said Dozier. "We're out here to make our environment cleaner and safer. Our goal is to clean up our community and get our community involved. You're happier when you live in a cleaner environment."

Operation Clean Sweep is on track to take place every first Saturday of the month. The next Clean Sweep will be held Saturday, April 3.

"It is all about actively helping our neighbors and making Askren a great place to live. So many of our extended family lives here," said Lt. Col. Everett Spain in a statement last month about the operation.

German students get taste of American education

by RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Fifteen German students and their teacher from the Realschule in Heilsbronn, participated in the Ansbach Middle High School's student exchange program — grades 7-10, recently.

Once united with their American partners, the German students attend normal classes with their cohorts, including lunch and in the gym for some sports activities.

"The exchange program gives our students and their German partners an opportunity to explore another culture, school system and to meet young people their own age — quite often they make new friends this way," said Wolfgang Koerner, German teacher at the Ansbach Middle High School who has been conducting the program since he started teaching in Ansbach 12 years ago.

"This is especially made easy by the proximity of the two schools," he added.

When the school day is over, students go home with their partners, spend the night and experience American family life.

And both sides of exchange students love it.

"I think it's great to learn about the American culture and experience everyday life of Americans," said Natascha Gieseler, an eighth-grade German participant.

Likewise, Americans found it just as interesting.

"I thought it was really cool to have a German guest at our house — we can teach them and learn from them," said Michelle Jirasko, an American seventh-grader.

Because the exchange program gives both sides an opportunity to interact, it hones skills and creates cultural interest.

"This program gives us the chance to speak German outside the classroom with someone our own age," said Natasha Parowski, an eighth-grade American at the school.

"We get to learn a different school system, which is totally new and very interesting — I



Photos by Wolfgang Koerner

Above: Participants from the Ansbach Middle High School Exchange Program gather for a group picture after playing sports in the gym on the first day of the exchange.

Right: (From left to right) Bryanna Matthews, Michelle Jirasko and their German partners Marina Blank and Katharina Feistkorn work together on a seventh-grade science project.

would do this again any time," said Marina Blank, ninth-grade German student.

Koerner said American students will have a chance to visit their new German friends at their school in a few weeks.



2010 Army Emergency Relief help keep Army strong



Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

The Army's Annual Army Emergency Relief campaign began March 1 and runs through May 15. The theme of this year's campaign is "Helping Maintain Army Strong."

The campaign objectives remain the same: To create greater awareness of AER's programs and benefits and to give Soldiers the opportunity to help their fellow Soldiers.

Last year Ansbach raised \$66,356.71; this year's goal is \$80,000.

In 2009 AER overall provided \$79 million in assistance to over 71,000 Soldiers and their families, of which \$172,712.42 in aid was provided to 151 Ansbach customers, said Karoline Garcia, local Army Emergency Relief officer.

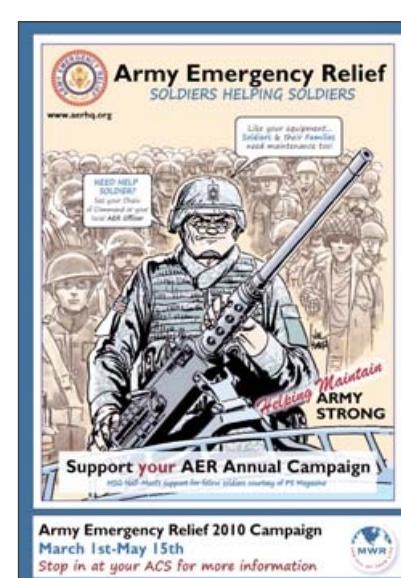
"AER campaigns provide an opportunity for Soldiers to help fellow Soldiers," said Garcia. "It creates a greater awareness and understanding of AER programs and benefits, plus it keeps the organization's tax-exempt status by raising at least one-third of its income through donations," she added.

And being a Soldiers-helping-Soldiers program, Garcia stressed why [donating] is vital.

"It's important to contribute because they are supporting the overall mission of AER, which is to provide emergency financial assistance (without dollar limits) to those Soldiers, families, retirees, widows and dependent children who really need it," she said.

Garcia added that AER represents a nonprofit organization, which is essentially owned by Soldiers, because it is not funded by any government money and cited some local cases.

Case 1: A Soldier had been married five months and was awaiting his Basic Allowance for Housing to start. His command was working with finance on the issue; however, it was going to take at least another month for the Soldier to see it start and back-pay what was owed.



He had been struggling those months trying to cover his wife's rent in the United States and both of their monthly expenses, as she was not yet command-sponsored to travel to Germany. AER assisted the family with basic living expenses of \$500, until the pay could be corrected for the following month. He was told to come back in to AER if the pay was not corrected.

Case 2: A Soldier received a Red Cross message that his grandmother was terminally ill and he needed assistance traveling with his wife to the United States. AER assisted him with the airfare and unexpected travel costs, totaling \$1,815.

Case 3: A Soldier requested assistance for airfare to travel to the States for paternity leave. His wife was due the following week and his command approved the paternity leave. AER assisted with his airfare totaling \$1,100.

Case 4: A Soldier requested assistance for hotel and food costs associated with emergency medical travel to the United States for an immediate family member. Due to the high dollar amount of the assistance and that further high expenses were anticipated (due to the nature of the medical emergency), the family was given a grant for the \$2,000 assistance.

AER assistance not only helps to solve immediate financial needs but also allows greater peace of mind. At Fort Hood, a young Soldier received AER assistance for essential repairs to his car prior to deployment and has assurance that his family will have safe transportation while he is away. AER provided another Soldier at Fort Jackson immediate financial assistance to travel home to attend a family funeral.

Founded in response to a need for financial assistance by Soldiers and their families during World War II, AER provides emergency financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans or outright grants. In addition to emergency assistance, AER provides scholarships to children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, financial support to surviving families of fallen Soldiers, and grants to widows and wounded warriors. Under AER's Command Referral Program, company commanders and first sergeants have the authority to approve AER loans to their Soldiers up to \$1,000.

AER assistance is available to Soldiers and their families, wherever they are located and the amount of assistance is only limited by a valid need. Soldiers and their family members requiring AER assistance can contact their unit chain of command or go to their local installation AER office.

The AER Office for USAG Ansbach is located on Katterbach Kaserne in Building 5817-A, DSN 467-2064, CIV 09802-83-2064.

Based on reciprocal agreements, Soldiers and families not near an Army Installation AER office can seek assistance at an Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard base from the Air Force Aid Society, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, respectively, or from any of the local chapters of the American Red Cross located throughout the United States.

Full details on Army Emergency Relief's assistance programs may be found by contacting your local AER Officer or on the Web at www.aerhq.org.

Left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. John Moore, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, rear detachment, command sergeant major; Lt. Col. Bryan Hoff, Rear Detachment commander; and U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Stephens, drop their 2010 Army Emergency Relief pledge ballots into the ballot box at the campaign kick-off ceremony at the Katterbach Dining Facility, March 1.

Team Dragon deploys to Afghanistan



Photo by Sgt. Thomas Childs

Sgt. Sean Bierwirth, left, tends to Sgt. Mathew Clark's simulated wounds during a training event in Romania, Nov. 10.

1-4th Infantry Regiment teams up with Romanian forces, changes mission

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

On a chilly morning in early March, Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment said goodbye to their families and departed for Afghanistan, where they will serve in support of Task Force Zabul and the International Security Assistance Force.

The reinforced company-sized element known as Team Dragon will continue the long line of 1-4th Inf. Regt. companies who have deployed to Zabul Province. Since 2006, 1-4th Inf. Regt. has rotated one company at a time to Afghanistan where they serve under the tactical control of the Romanian army. The deployment this month marks the third for Team Dragon who, upon their arrival, will relieve Team Apache that has been in Afghanistan since August 2009.

According to Capt. William Duncan, Team Dragon commander, the 1-4th Inf. Regt. mission in Zabul has previously been in areas of responsibility around minor population centers. In the near future that mission will transition into a highway security mission aimed at protecting the highway between Kabul and Kandahar.

"We will be maintaining that road for the Afghan people, police, government and coalition forces," said Duncan.

"We want to make the Afghan people feel confident with their own security forces, to appreciate and feel like they have the protection they need to go about their daily life," Duncan said.

During a deployment ceremony, Feb. 19, Col. John Spiszer, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander, said Team Dragon's mission is a vital one for both the Afghan people and the United States, "a great and noble effort not to be taken lightly."



Courtesy photo

Second Lt. Daniel Meegan, left, and Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, scan their sectors of fire during a live-fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Jan. 19.

I am confident in the ability of the lowest level leaders to assess the situation and not just apply fire power, but to apply common sense and exert restraint.

Capt. William Duncan, Commander, Team Dragon

Spiszer said Team Dragon will continue to ensure the enemy cannot bring the fight to the United States and will keep the Taliban from preventing peace and stability, thus helping thousands of innocent civilians.

The mission is also "a continuation of the unique, strategic relationship between the United States and Romania," unlike any other in the Army, Spiszer said.

To successfully complete their unique task, every Soldier with Team Dragon is trained and ready for their mission, said Duncan.

"Every member is trained on every weapon and every person knows not just their job, but the job of the person to their left and right," said Duncan, adding that he is just as confident of his Soldiers' judgment as he is of their technical expertise.

"I am confident in the ability of the lowest level leaders to assess the situation and not just apply fire power but to apply common sense and exert restraint."

In addition to praising the abilities of his Soldiers, Duncan also praised the support of their families, thanking them for their strength and endurance.

"Everyone in the Army is a volunteer, and that includes the families. Their willingness to go through this for the good of the country in my opinion makes them great patriotic heroes," said Duncan.

Lt. Col. Rafael Paredes, 1-4th Inf. Regt. commander, also thanked the Team Dragon families during the deployment ceremony. Paredes said it is the love and support of their families that allows Soldiers to accomplish their mission.



Photo by Kristin Bradley

Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, stand in formation during a deployment ceremony, Feb. 19. The company deployed to Afghanistan for the third time where it will support Task Force Zabul and the International Security Assistance Force.

Math, Science and Technology night a success

Elementary school students Meghan Murphy, left, and Molly Pirog explore an ostrich egg held by teacher Margaret Honeycutt, March 4. The display, a collection from teacher Lisa Zimmerman, was one of the many booths set up by teachers and organizations from throughout post during Math, Science and Technology Night at Hohenfels High School. The annual event drew hundreds of community members where hands-on exhibits aimed at enhancing students' interest in math, science and technology.

Photo by Kristin Bradley



Hohenfels

Adams represents Hohenfels in championship

Story and photos by
by KRISTIN BRADLEY
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

For the first time, the Hohenfels High School rifle team is sending one of its shooters to compete in the 2010 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps National Air Rifle Championship, March 25-27, in Anniston, Ala.

Sarah Adams, a senior at Hohenfels High School, finished eighth out of 67 shooters when she and her three teammates traveled to Camp Perry, Ohio, for the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Service Championship in February.

Hohenfels' 2010 showing in Ohio was just its second time as a team competing against the best rifle teams from throughout all Army JROTC. Adams is the first shooter from Hohenfels to make it to the all-service championship, where she will compete with the best 72 shooters of all the JROTC programs: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

Adams' achievement at the Army JROTC championship is all the more impressive considering her level of competition experience compared to the shooters she met in Ohio.

"After four years she has nearly as many competitions under her belt as most first year shooters in the United States," said retired 1st Sgt. and Coach Bruce Andrews. On average, European teams will compete in six matches a season while the average team in the United States will compete in 20 to 30, said Andrews.

Though she has less competition experience than shooters in the United States, Adams has held her own against those shooters at the Army JROTC championship for the past three years. Hohenfels has only sent a team to the Army JROTC championship for the past two years, but Adams has been three times: she earned an individual spot her sophomore year after finishing the regular season as Europe's top shooter.



Adams

I think I have a good chance of bringing home some bacon.

Sarah Adams
Hohenfels High School Rifle Team

After a strong showing in Ohio — Adams shot a 199 of 200 in prone, 186 of 190 in standing and a 197 of 198 in kneeling — she said she is confident of her prospects in Alabama.

"There probably is going to be a more difficult level of competition there, but because of how well I've done this year, I think I have a good chance of bringing home some bacon," said Adams.

To prepare, the three-sport athlete is taking advantage of dead week, the period after winter sports practice ends and practice for spring sports begins. Once soccer practice begins, Adams will juggle the two until she leaves for Alabama, all while maintaining her honor-roll grade point average.

"If you're not dedicated to this sport, it's not for you," said Adams, explaining that it is in part her dedication that has made her so successful — dedication along with a cool head.

"I just try to keep my head clear and shoot the best I can on both days," said Adams.

Sarah Adams, front, practices shooting in the prone position during a team practice in January. Adams, a senior at Hohenfels High School, finished 8th in the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Service Championship in February and will travel to Alabama in March to compete in the 2010 JROTC National Air Rifle Championship, the first Hohenfels shooter to ever make it to the all-service championship.



New Pxtra facilitates one-stop shopping

Story and photo by
by KRISTIN BRADLEY
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Shopping at Hohenfels just got a little bit easier following the ribbon cutting and grand opening of a new Army and Air Force Exchange Service facility in Building 9 that consolidated the Pxtra, Bookmark, dry cleaning and alterations, Military Clothing Sales and Enterprise Rent-a-Car into one location.

The joint U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels and AAFES project is the continuation of a push to increase convenience by consolidating all main post services along one stretch of Gen. Patton Drive.

The new Pxtra facility sits next to the Main Post Exchange, movie theater and food court in Building 3 and is only a few hundred yards from Army Community Service, the Community Activities Center and the Bowling Alley.

A drive-through ATM, Hohenfels' first, will also soon be available in front of Building 9. Construction is underway and Alan Goldman, Service Credit Union manager, said SCU hopes to have the machine up and running by April 1.

"Now you don't have to go to many different places to get what you need. It's a one-stop shop for customers," said Marla Smith, AAFES general manager.

Many community members agreed that the new facility is more convenient.

"It's nice and larger than the old one," said community member Sheila Dietrich. "I like it much better having it all in one spot so I don't have to drive all the way up the hill (to the former Pxtra location.) I can come park in one parking lot and walk to both the PX and the Pxtra."

According to Smith, moving into the new facility also allowed AAFES to increase some of its offerings.

Smith said the Four Seasons portion of the Pxtra increased its merchandise by 20 percent. The sports section now includes bikes, an item not available at the former location.

Military Clothing Sales now offers



Hohenfels community member Heather Lord browses the enhanced Bookmark section of the new Pxtra with her daughter Gwendolyn, March 1. A joint U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels and Army and Air Force Exchange Service project consolidated the Pxtra, Bookmark, dry cleaning and alterations, Military Clothing Sales and Enterprise Rent-a-Car into one location in Building 9.

enhanced female offerings, including the new dress uniform, said Smith, and the tactical line was increased 10 percent. The Bookmark, formerly located inside the main PX, features two new categories — crafts and religion — and an enhanced cooking section.

Renovations will soon begin inside the Main PX to modify the Power Zone and the space formerly occupied by the Bookmark, Smith said.

According to Jim Einwaechter, Department of Public Works director, the former Pxtra site, Building 334, has been turned back over to the garrison. Garrison officials are investigating possible uses for the space but have not made any final decisions.

Dining facility to close its doors

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

As part of an effort throughout U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels to examine ways to meet community needs while making the most of available resources, Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, garrison commander, recently announced that the Garrison Dining Facility in Building 24 will close after serving its last meal, April 30.

The news came after an initial announcement in the Feb. 17 issue of the Bavarian News in which Quarles said the garrison was considering closing the facility as one way to more efficiently allocate funds.

Both the Garrison Dining Facility and the Warrior Sports Cafe are run by the garrison. According to Army Regulation 30-22, "Installation commanders must consider consolidating dining facilities when total utilization of any facility drops below 65 percent of the design capacity on an annual basis."

According to Robert Janey, Garrison Dining Facility manager, during the first quarter of fiscal year 2010, the Garrison Dining Facility operated at a 21 percent average utilization rate, meaning it served 21 percent of the meals it had the capacity to serve.

The Warrior Sports Cafe, the dining facility on Warrior Hill, operated at a 25 percent average utilization rate during the first quarter of fiscal year 2010, according to Timothy Haskell, Warrior Sports Cafe assistant manager.

Both facilities had similar numbers for fiscal year 2009.

Continuing to run both facilities at those levels is just not sustainable, said Quarles.

"We have an inherent responsibility to eliminate inefficiencies and excess capacity in order to fulfill our obligation to be good stewards of the resources that we have been given," Quarles said last month when discussing the possibility of closing the facility.

Quarles said he is confident the level of dining service at USAG Hohenfels will remain the same, as will the customers authorized to use the dining facilities on post.

"Though feeding civilians is not a recognized Department of the Army mission, civilians will continue to be

We are taking a look at our staffing so we can be prepared for some additional customers. We'll anticipate and change staffing accordingly so people aren't waiting.

Brian Silkett
Manager, Anthony's Pizza/Burger King

served at the Warrior Sports Cafe," said Quarles. "There are no plans to prohibit that at this time."

Based on both facilities' utilization rates — the Garrison Dining Facility has been operating at approximately 21 percent of its capacity and the Warrior Sports Cafe at 25 percent — the Warrior Sports Cafe should be more than capable of absorbing the additional customers, a prediction the Warrior Sports Cafe's managers agree with.

"We are going to be able to 100 percent support the closure," said Haskell.

"I don't think the overall quality of service for Hohenfels will change (once the Garrison Dining Facility closes)," said Kevin Lassiter, Warrior Sports Cafe manager.

Both managers said for now they believe they can serve the additional customers within the current hours of operations, though after the closure they will re-evaluate to determine if serving hours should be extended.

Ed Jones, garrison director of logistics, said he and his staff are working on ways to expedite customers through check-in and meal lines, making sure the Warrior Sports Cafe is running smoother than ever for its additional customers.

Jones said his office is also working

on a schedule for an express shuttle bus that will move between the Building 24 area and the Warrior Sports Cafe so all customers continue to have easy access to a dining facility. Jones said the schedule will be released prior to the closure; check www.hohenfels.army.mil for updates.

In addition to the Warrior Sports Cafe, other food service facilities on post said they are ready for a possible influx of customers after April 30.

"We are taking a look at our staffing so we can be prepared for some additional customers. We'll anticipate and change staffing accordingly so people aren't waiting," said Brian Silkett, store manager for Anthony's Pizza and Burger King in Building 3. "We will re-evaluate after the first week and make adjustments where needed."

Managers at the Lane 17 Bowling Center, where customers can order food such as hamburgers and chicken wings beginning at 11 a.m., said they are also ready to serve any additional customers.

"We do anticipate a jump in customers and we're definitely ready to handle any additional increase," said James Williams, Lane 17 Bowling Center manager. Williams said if the increase in business is significant, he is ready to increase staffing during the day to ensure the quality of service remains high.

Overall, customers have a wide range of food choices on-post including the Java Cafe in the Community Activities Center, Mayer's Deutsche Kantine in Building 36, Casino Canteen in Building 329, Subway on Warrior Hill and ready to eat sandwiches and salads at the commissary.

While customers from the Garrison Dining Facility will be changing their routines slightly once the facility closes, they are not the only ones who will be making changes.

Currently the garrison plans to move the approximately 25 Garrison Dining Facility employees to the Warrior Sports Cafe immediately following the closure, but long-term plans for those employees are not yet known.

Bruno Wagner, Hohenfels human resources specialist, said though ideally each employee would be placed in a different job, no permanent staffing decisions have been made.

Wolnzach Museum really hops

Story and photos by

JOHN REESE

USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

The Garmisch adventure for February took FMWR participants north of Munich to the German Hops Museum in Wolnzach to sample six different British ales.

The beer samplings are a study of one of Bavaria's most serious topics, and the trip began with a tour of the museum showing how the region's hops are considered the best in the world. Hops are a critical ingredient for the flavor and character of beer, and are one of only four allowed ingredients under Germany's Reinheitsgebot, or Bavarian beer purity law (the other three ingredients are roasted barley, water and yeast.)

Participants came from as far away as Schweinfurt and Stuttgart for this uniquely Garmisch FMWR trip, said organizer Jay Proctor.

"These trips aren't like attending a fest; they're an educational experience similar to wine tastings for people interested in what makes beers unique," said Proctor. "We have a strict policy of no pregaming, meaning that alcohol consumption is not the point, but rather educating the mind and palate."

The trip was the largest outing yet since Garmisch FMWR tours started the Brewery of the Month Club tours, added Proctor, noting a total of 22 people registered and paid for the special tour.

"I was looking on (the Garmisch garrison Web site) for things to do," said Jennifer Burson of U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt. Burson's husband Jay is a homebrewer.

"We have some tours and stuff in Schweinfurt, but we wanted to see what else was out there and what everyone else was offering. We love to explore and see new things, and we love beer. It is so excellent that there are such neat tours in Garmisch," Burson added.

Museum tour guide Anne Fishburn from England gave a brief explanation of how hops affect beer, noting that companies from around the world annually purchase hundreds of tons of Hallertau region hops.

"It is the lupulin glands, the yellow powder found in the hops, that flavors the bitterness of beers," she said, offering a large tray of dried hops for the group to smell. "The hop is a very hearty plant — basically a weed —



A 3-D display showing the old-school method of harvesting and processing Hallertau hops. The backbreaking work was done mostly by women, and the best hops are female.

that grows back again after being cut. I planted one 25 years ago in my garden and it keeps coming back no matter how deep I've trimmed it."

Fishburn led the group through an enormous model of a hop to start, then past assorted farming tools and technology used over centuries to grow and harvest hops. Illuminated reproductions of ancient documents written around 822 in Latin are the first documented evidence of hops as a crop, although archeological digs have found hops going back much further. Beer without hops goes back much further, to around 9,000 B.C.

Hops farms can be seen from roads and autobahns as fields of tall poles strung with horizontal and vertical wires. The plant grows very fast, easily reaching heights of more than 20 feet.

"The hops must be wound clockwise around the wires to grow properly, otherwise they won't work," explained Fishburn.

One of the more interesting jobs was the official hop stomper, a guy who had to stand in a large canvas bag to pack down the processed crop before the canvas bags were sealed. The hops themselves are a skin irritant, so anyone involved in the harvesting and processing was subject to a rash.

"The saying goes that once you've been affected, you will always have a taste for beer," said Fishburn.

Under the tutelage 'beer sommelier' Dr. Christoph Pinzl, the group sat down to tables set with goblets good for checking the aromas, pitchers of water to rinse glasses between ales, and baskets of brown bread cubes to cleanse the palates. Skylights helped tasters admire the different shades of red, brown and amber. Unlike wine tasting, there was no need for a spittoon.

Pinzl walked the group through the six British ale selections with detailed descriptions of each sample. One of the ales came in a champagne bottle, while the last was a vintage ale from 2008 designed for long-term storage like a wine at a cost of about \$50 per bottle. After each sample, Pinzl asked for opinions. Five were met with approval, but a strong ale designed for burly dockworkers called 'Riptide' had a smoky flavor was vigorously divided between love and hate.

"The smoky flavor comes from the roasting of the barley," explained Pinzl, passing a sample container of prepared grain for the group to crunch. The barley was about the size of pine nuts and had a toasty flavor.

The FMWR group was knowledgeable about beers and brewing, carefully examining each ale and asking pointed questions about brewing processes after each taste.

"The price of admission was



The exterior of a two-story hop begins the tour at the German Hop Museum in Wolnzach.

some of the most well-spent money during my trip to Garmisch," said Lt. Cmdr. Anne McCann, U.S. Navy, a Marshall Center student accompanied by her husband Wes, one of two home brewers on the tour.

Kelley Smith of Garmisch compared the German Hops Museum trip to the Kaltenberg tour before Christmas.

"I thought this was a little more refined and got behind the brewing techniques better, more insight into the different brewing processes for the different types," said Smith.

Pinzl seemed pleasantly surprised at the types of questions and the level

of interest of the Americans.

"I'm pleased that you liked it," said Pinzl. "You're real beer connoisseurs, and it's always a lot of fun to present beer to real beer lovers."

Proctor and Pinzl are planning a couple more tastings in the future, one of Belgian brews and another for Valentine's Day 2011 combining beer and chocolate.

The next Garmisch Brewery of the Month Club adventure is already booking up — visit the garrison Web site at www.garmisch.army.mil or check the What's Happening section of the *Bavarian News* for more information.

Students remember Soldiers

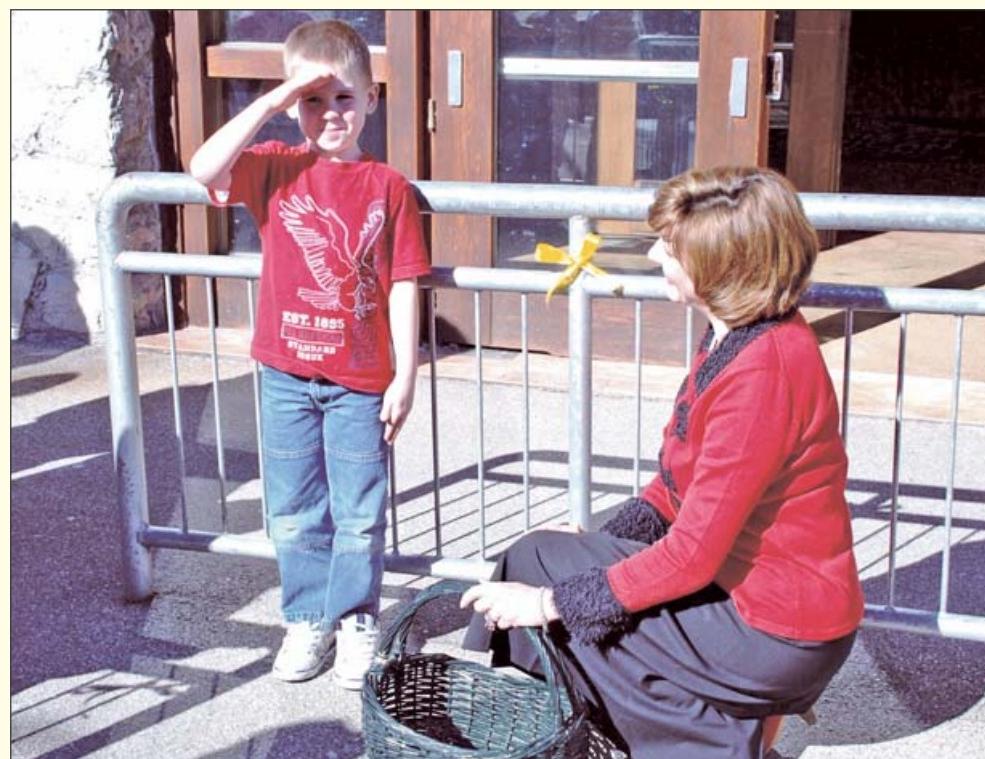


Photo by John Reese

Sean Chambers gives a salute for his father after tying a yellow ribbon to a rail in front of the Garmisch Elementary / Middle School. His father, Sgt. Michael Chambers, a military working dog handler with the 554th Military Police Company returned a few days later after he and his four-legged partner, "Staff Sgt." Agbar completed a tour at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Principal Debbie Strong, right, led the students in tying the ribbons to remind them of the Soldiers downrange.



GARMISCH Postal Service Center



(From left) APO Postmaster Willie Carter, clerks John Bjerke and Tim Stewart, and Official Mail Room Postmaster James Kittrell pose before the big new sign intended to help the thousands of visiting students, vacationers and incoming garrison and tenant unit personnel find the "one-stop shopping" postal facility in Building 251 on Artillery Kaserne. The Community Mail Room is also located in the same building between the APO and the CMR. The postal services in Garmisch continue to improve and customer feedback is always encouraged.

Photo by John Reese

Remagen remembered by veterans

Continued from page 4

Keynote speakers included Hans Peter Kuerten, former Remagen mayor and museum founder, and Herbert Georgi, the town's current mayor. Heinz Schwarz talked about the bridge's capture from his perspective as a teenager living in Remagen in 1945.

The last speaker, Ekkehard Strobel, told the audience about his father, Maj. Herbert Strobel, one of the bridge's defenders. Strobel and four other German officers were executed for treason at the direct order of Adolf Hitler, for allowing the allies to take the bridge.

The 9th Engineers have been part of the commemorations at the bridge since their arrival in Germany in 1959, Kleeman said. The unit has conducted unit events such as NCO induction ceremonies at the bridge, he added.

While their participation in commemorative events is their most visible role here, the engineers also strengthen the bonds between Germany and the United States, Kleeman said.

"In our part of Germany there are not so many American Soldiers," he said. "There could be more contact between Germans and Americans so we know more about each other."

"We would like to build 10 times the relationship we have now with the city of Remagen," said Sgt. 1st Class Philip Gutzler of the 9th's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

U.S.-German partnership was only half the reason Gutzler's participation in the ceremony was special. He said his other reason was personal.

"My grandfather crossed here," he said. "(The bridge) has always been something I wanted to visit."

Gutzler said his grandfather, Pfc. Charles Everett Park, a 9th Armored Division tank driver, was injured shortly after crossing the bridge.

Before the ceremony, Gutzler talked with Jack Jewell, one of several 9th Infantry Division World War II veterans attending the event, about his experiences in combat. The sergeant said he came away convinced that today's 9th Engineers are proudly carrying on in the tradition of their forefathers.

"Pure guts. That's what got them through," Gutzler said.

"They left a footprint here that will last forever," he added. "That is what we can do with our deployments: we can leave things better than we found them."



The 9th Engineer Battalion color guard marches to a wreath-laying ceremony during events commemorating the 65th anniversary of the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge, in Remagen, Germany, March 7. A contingent of 20 engineers traveled from their home station in Schweinfurt, Germany, to take part in the day's events. The remains of the bridge's eastern towers can be seen in the background across the Rhine.

Children, adults deliver row-tivational performance

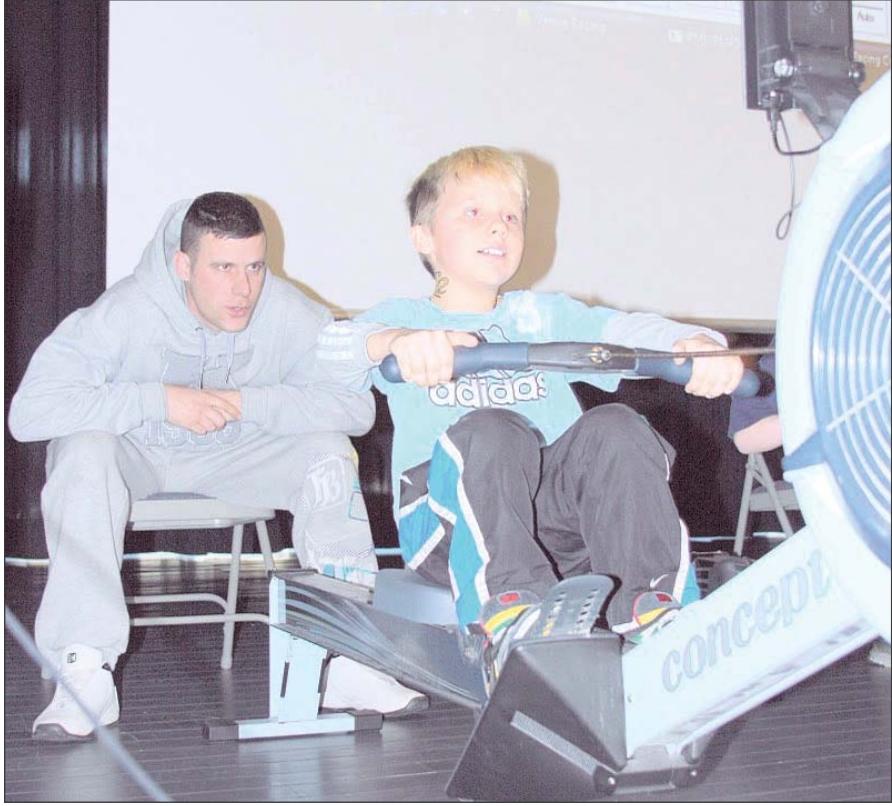


Photo by Rebecca Gray

Sgt. Jason Harvey gives pointers to and motivates his son, Julian Harvey, during the Netzaberg Elementary Indoor Rowing Championships, Feb. 27. Eighty-one students and parents hammered away on Concept 2 rowing machines trying to cover as many meters as possible in two or four minute racing heats.

Indoor rowing competitions were held this past season throughout Germany including Kassel, Berlin, Lubeck, and the European Championships in Essen. This event, however, was the first indoor regatta held primarily for elementary children in Germany.

Individuals interested in competing next season, which will include the European Championships in Paris, the World Championships in Boston, and, of course, the second Netzaberg Indoor Championships, should visit the Concept 2 Web site at concept2.com, or e-mail david.gray@eu.dodea.edu.

Fuel card changes streamline procedures

Continued from page 1

Kastel vehicle registration clerk.

"If a person needs more fuel rations, come to the vehicle registration office and request an exception to policy through your chain of command for more fuel rations," he said.

Customers must submit an AE Form 600-17A through their chain of command to Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe for additional rations that will be loaded to their fuel card.

Customers who exceed their authorized fuel rations or have an invalid or deactivated fuel ration card at AAFES gas stations will be charged German fuel prices found on

the local economy, which can easily be 100 percent more than AAFES fuel prices.

"I think it's a good idea and fair," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brian Marquardt, medical equipment maintenance officer in charge, 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. "Charging the German price is a reasonable measure (for exceeding fuel rations)."

Customers are still required to show their vehicle registration, fuel ration card and military identification at the time of payment.

According to the U.S. Army Europe Provost Marshal Office, once the new policy

is in place customers who exceed their ration allowance will not be in violation of AER 600-17 because the customer will pay the local economy price, not the nontaxed price. The Provost Marshal Office does not plan to refer over rations purchase for administrative or Uniform Code of Military Justice actions and no military police report will be generated.

The new self enforcement policy will streamline procedures to purchase fuel and will save customers time. Customers who exceed their tax free fuel ration amount will pay the taxed fuel rate for the amount of fuel that exceeds their rations.

Hale is humble, the right 'caliber' person for job

Continued from page 4

effectively execute all training," says Chief Warrant Officer 2 Julian Price, the 170th IBCT ammunition officer. "He takes a personal stand and pride while using his immeasurable ammunition knowledge to advise myself about training ammunition management to ensure that I can best support my unit to meet the BCT commander's training intent."

It is important for unit ammunition managers to know the difference between a 9 mm round and a mortar round.

"From the safety aspect, if a Soldier accidentally placed the wrong caliber of ammo in a weapon, it could cause the weapon to explode causing loss of limb or life," said Henry.

Hale's dedication to supporting the Army team was recognized when he won the 2008 Department of the Army Award for Excellence in Ammunition Management in the Government Service (GS) level 12/13 category.

It was an unexpected honor.

"My first feeling was one of disbelief," said Hale. "I know most of the ammo managers in the field. Anyone of them could have equally won this award, which makes me humble."

Hale said interfacing with the commanders and Soldiers on the ground, as well as the policy-makers in the Pentagon, and the ammunition item managers at the National Inventory Control Point are some of the perks of the job.

Units can reap the benefits of his experience by taking the Training Ammunition Management course offered at the Joint Multinational Training Command Combined Arms Training Center in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

"We teach the grassroots of ammunition management that include forms, publications, how to determine an ammunition requirement for a weapon or weapon platform, an individual range, fiscal year ammunition requirements, and how to forecast," said Hale.

AER is Soldiers helping Soldiers

Continued from page 1

families in Grafenwoehr and another \$421,549.33 to those in Vilseck.

AER can assist Soldiers with items in the following categories as per AR 930-4:

- Emergency assistance to include rent, food, travel, car repair, funeral, medical and dental expenses
- Scholarships for children and spouses
- Incidental expenses for Soldiers medically evacuated from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom
- Support to families of fallen Soldiers

This program truly helps Soldiers and their families, but should not be used as a substitution for savings.

"Most of the money distributed tends to be for family emergency trips to the States," said Carey Perks, Financial Readiness officer and AER manager at USAG Grafenwoehr. "But scholarships are another great way that AER helps Soldiers."

AER's scholarship program pays for many young spouses or dependents to get their bachelor's degree, GED or take English as a Second Language classes. Unfortunately, many Soldiers aren't aware of these options.

"This benefit is underutilized and with the costs of education rising, it's important we provide options for young Soldiers and their families," said Perks.

Getting financial assistance through AER can be intimidating, but the end result may be you get that car fixed while your spouse is out of town, or you can feed your children if your pay is low for some reason. Financial management is critical, but emergencies happen and AER is there for the Soldier.

"The Soldier is our most important resource. We exist to serve the Soldier. If we err, we err in favor of the Soldier," said Perks, quoting one of the primary tenets of the organization.

For more information, contact the Army Community Service office at Grafenwoehr at DSN 475-8371/7413/7115, CIV 09641-83-8371/7413/7115 or at Rose Barracks at DSN 476-2650/2733, CIV 09662832650; or www.aerhq.org/index.asp.

Survey data used to determine rates

Continued from page 1

which are part of the computation of Soldiers' Overseas Housing Allowance.

Additionally, every third year a survey is conducted to identify how much service members spent making their lease/rental quarters habitable when they initially moved-in. Sample expenses include purchase of major appliances or expenses associated with turning-on utilities. Data collected is used to determine the Move-In Housing Allowance, which is also part of Overseas Housing Allowance.

The survey requires service members to report the average monthly cost of utilities and routine maintenance in the past year. To complete the survey, service members should have actual bills or records of their utility and maintenance expenses for the last 12 months.

For additional information, contact Randall Ries, DSN 370-3884, randall.ries@eur.army.mil; or William Gordon, DSN 370-3888, bill.gordon@eur.army.mil.